



Reference: FOI1456

Request:

Please could you provide a breakdown of which mechanisms you procure consultancy services from, specifically:

Please note the term consultant is subjective and open to interpretation. Individuals may be contracted to provide a consultancy service, but this may not necessarily be recorded in Council systems under the term consultant.

To provide the information requested would require asking all Council employees to identify and search for any information which they consider to be within the remit of the request. To ask all staff to conduct this search would likely result in your request being refused as exceeding the appropriate limit, Section 12 of the Act.

As the Act applies to recorded information held only, we have provided information based on only that information that is identified or recorded under the term consultant.

The responses provided relate to the procurement spend category of consultancy which is used to categorise suppliers within our finance system. Some suppliers may have been categorised in our system as consultants and may also have provided services other than consultancy.

In addition, some suppliers may not have been categorised as consultants in our system but may have provided consultancy services, therefore the information provided is only that which is recorded and identified as consultancy services in our financial system.

1. Do you use national procurement frameworks to procure consultancy?

Yes

- a. If so, which frameworks do you use, and what proportion of your consultancy spend over the last 12 months has been on each of the frameworks you are part of.

We utilise Bloom which is a national framework and also a neutral vendor. See response to Question 2A for proportion of spend.

2. Do you use third party neutral vendors/procurement solution providers (eg ESPO, Bloom, Procurement hub) to procure consultancy?

Yes, see above.



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- a. If so which do you use, and what proportion of your consultancy spend over the last 12 months has been on each of the vendors you use.

We use the NEPO 503 Vendor Neutral Managed Service for Specialist Professional Service with Bloom which is 25% of spend which has been categorised as consultancy.

3. Do you use internal frameworks to procure consultancy? (IE frameworks that are not national, that you administer yourselves or share with a small number of other local authorities)

Yes

- a. If so what proportion of your consultancy spend over the last 12 months has been on each of the frameworks you have and when will they expire/re-open for applications.

Specialist Consultancy Services accounted for 9% of spend this expired in June 2019 and was included in our contract for Made in North Tyneside which will expire on the 31st December 2021

Vacant Property accounted for 0.5% of spend and will expire on the 20th December 2020 Contract 46 DPS for Consultancy Services for the Construction Service is an open Dynamic Purchasing System where applications can be made at any time which runs until 31st March 2021.

This is a new framework which commenced on 1st April 2019 and no spend has been made yet.

4. Have you procured consultancy services through your own unique, project specific tender processes? (for example advertising a tender for a specific consultancy piece of work)

Yes

- a. If so what proportion of your consultancy spend was procured through this route, and where do you advertise such opportunities?

39% of spend was procured through various routes according to the value by service areas in accordance with our Contract Standing Orders which are available on the Authority's web site at <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/611/strategy-and-procedures>

We are only required by Contract Standing Orders to advertise spend over £50k however the Authority can choose to advertise contracts under this threshold. When we do advertise we utilise the [Nepo Portal] (<https://procontract.due-north.com/Register>) and any

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advert over £25k will also be published on [Contracts Finder](<https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder>)

Contracts which exceed the European Union procurement threshold of £181,302 for Services and £4,551,413 for Works Contracts will also go on [Tenders Electronic Daily (TED)](<https://ted.europa.eu/TED/main/HomePage.do>)

Opportunities are also advertised on the Authorities [web site] (<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/606/tender-and-contract-opportunities>)

And on our [Twitter feed](https://twitter.com/NTCouncilTeam?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)

5. Have you procured consultancy services through any other mechanisms in the last 12 months? (for example direct awards). If so what proportion of your consultancy spend was this for.

26.5% of spend was placed by direct award

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