



REQUEST 19173

For the period 1 January 2020 to the present date, please confirm the total gross external spend incurred by the authority in each of the categories listed below.

A single total figure for the whole period is sufficient. If easier, the information may instead be provided as annual totals by financial year.

Please note the requested figures have been provided by financial year, starting 1 April 2020, and are quoted net of VAT.

Expenditure categories

1. Consultancy and advisory services: All external consultancy or advisory spend, as recorded by the authority, including management, strategy, transformation, policy, or specialist advisory services.

Please note that the Council does not record spend in the requested categories, therefore an analysis of 'Professional Fees' has been undertaken to derive the amounts spent on Consultancy and Advisory services for the requested periods. Key words such as 'Consultant, Advisory, Management, Service', have been used to identify spend in these categories.

2020 - £487,649

2021 - £660,740

2022 - £872,120

2023 - £591,730

2024 - £666,343

2025 to date - £439,313

2. Legal services: All external legal spend, including solicitors, barristers, litigation, claims, and legal advice

Please note that the Council does not record spend in the requested categories, therefore an analysis of 'Professional Fees' has been undertaken to derive at the amounts spent of Legal Services for the requested period. Cost Centres relating to legal services have been used to identify spend in this category.

2020 - £1,024,367

2021 - £1,377,028

2022 - £1,306,009

2023 - £1,227,121

2024 - £1,038,952

2025 to date - £641,685

3. Recruitment, agency, and interim services: External recruitment agencies, executive search firms, interim placements, and related fees including spend on agency or temporary staff supplied by third-party providers.

2020 - £3,560,301

2021 - £5,180,759

2022 - £4,752,307

2023 - £2,168,883

2024 - £1,050,430

2025 - £866,213

4. Other external professional services: All other external professional services not included above, as recorded by the authority (e.g. audit, accountancy, communications/PR, design, research, IT or technical advisory services).

Please note that the Council does not record spend in the requested categories, therefore all remaining expenditure included in 'Professional Fees' that has not been included in Q1 and Q2, is included here.

2020 - £9,559,383

2021 - £12,453,668

2022 - £12,260,937

2023 - £18,446,127

2024 - £21,564,289

2025 - £11,571,830

5. Staff training and development (external): External spend on staff training, development programmes, conferences, courses, or professional accreditation (excluding internal staffing costs).

2020 - £126,520

2021 - £126,724

2022 - £103,305

2023 - £140,542

2024 - £205,482

2025 - £78,746

6. Marketing, advertising, and publicity (external): External spend on advertising, marketing, publicity, campaigns, media buying, branding, or promotional activity (excluding staff costs).

2020 - £59,705

2021 - £50,811

2022 - £67,171

2023 - £73,979

2024 - £127,163

2025 - £58,060

7. Office accommodation and facilities management: Spend on office accommodation and facilities, including rent, maintenance, utilities, estate management, and related property costs.

Please note that the Council does not record spend in the requested categories, therefore an analysis of 'Premises Costs' has been undertaken to derive at the amounts spent on Office Accommodation and Facilities Management for the requested period. Key words such as 'Office/Offices' have been used to identify spend for this category.

2020 - £209,773

2021 - £126,922

2022 - £219,975

2023 - £492,161

2024 - £273,650

2025 - £193,368