FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 907/18

Dear Sir/Madam

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request / Response:

1. Has the council outsourced its planning department (responsible for town and country planning)? If so, who is responsible for providing these services?

   Answer: Rutland County Council has not outsourced its planning department.

2. Has the council outsourced any part of its planning services (planning policy, development management, planning enforcement)? If so, who is responsible for providing these services?

   Answer: There is a shared service arrangement with South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) which consists of the secondment of SKDC employees to support the planning functions of Rutland County Council on the following basis: Strategic Director (70% of time); Planning Policy Manager (40% of time); Development Management Manager (40% of time); and Conservation Officer (20% of time).

3. Please provide details of any company providing statutory planning services or service support for planning to the council. If such provision exists, how long has the company provided services to the council, how long does the contract last for and what is the value of the contract?

   Answer: Rutland County Council does not use any company for providing statutory planning services or service support for planning.

4. Are planning officers responsible for delivering the council’s town and country planning responsibilities employed directly by the council? If not, who are they employed by?
Answer: Planning officers responsible for delivering the council's town and country planning responsibilities are employed directly by Rutland County Council, except for point 2 above.

5. Is routine use of private sector consultants made to process planning applications on behalf of the council? If so, which company/companies are used for this and how much was paid for such consultancy in the 2017-18 financial year?

Answer: No. Consultants are used during periods of staff shortages only. In 2017-18, the Oyster Partnership provided interim staff at a cost of £35,406.

6. Is routine use of private sector consultants made to develop planning policy on behalf of the council? If so, which company/companies are used for this and how much was paid for such consultancy in the 2017-18 financial year?

Answer: Specific evidence work is commissioned from consultants but this is not done on a routine basis.

7. Is routine use of private sector consultants made to conduct planning enforcement work on behalf of the council? If so, which company/companies are used for this and how much was paid for such consultancy in the 2017-18 financial year?

Answer: Private sector consultants are not used to conduct planning enforcement work on behalf of the council.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Head of Corporate Governance, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP
You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700

Yours faithfully

FOI Administrator
Corporate Support Team, Rutland County Council