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Central Bedfordshire Council recovers over £100,000 with Spend Analysis and Recovery Services

The requirement

Central Bedfordshire Council sought a specialist consultancy to help identify any areas of erroneous spend and to provide assurance of the strength of procedures in place within their Accounts Payable department. The scope was to undertake a forensic examination of third party invoice payments to identify: overpayments, duplicate payments, credit notes not processed and any other opportunities to recover funds from suppliers due to the council.



The solution

The council wished to engage a specialist consultancy to undertake the project and key requirements for the selection process included minimal impact on internal staff, maximised financial recoveries, services that would be bespoke to the council and a proven record demonstrating breadth and success of service delivery.

Utilising the Spend Analysis and Recovery Services agreement the council engaged a purchase ledger review specialist, Meridian V4 Services, via a direct award. The call off under the agreement was a straightforward process and was awarded on a 'no win, no fee' basis.

The results

The project was delivered within predicted timescales and was managed through one main point of contact, alongside support from a member of the council's VAT team. Meridian managed the process from initial data investigation through to claim resolution. No supplier was contacted without prior council approval.

The review period included a secondary review of data which had previously been reviewed by another consultancy (approx. half the total review period) and as a result initial council expectations had been particularly modest.

Meridian's initial recovery expectations were between £80,000 and £100,000 and as a result of finding more than expected from the data already reviewed, recoveries exceeded £100,000.

The final written report provided extended commentary on the project findings and made practical suggestions for implementable recommendations.

As a direct result of the success of this project, the council is re-investing some of the physical cash savings into further contract compliance opportunities including an audit of telecommunications.

"Prior to project commencement, Meridian set clear expectations of the likely value of recoveries and expected project delivery timelines. The council has been delighted with the results achieved from this project; expectations were exceeded and the whole project had very little impact on the day to day functions of the team.

Their account management style was personal and professional and we were particularly pleased with the additional value Meridian was able to add beyond the purchase ledger data analysed.

As a direct result of the success of this project the council is undertaking further areas of spend analysis with MeridianV4Services to highlight further savings opportunities." **Paul Meigh**, Chief Procurement Officer

For further information

Please see our webpage: <http://ccs.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/contracts/rm1037>

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