

OFFICER DECISION RECORD

Decision Ref. No:
SPU/Ecstrat/Mar00118
FCS 282

Box 1

DIRECTORATE: Corporate Resources **DATE:** 15th March 2018
Contact Name: Christian Foster **Tel. No.:** 01302 736614
Subject Matter: Growth Specialisms

Box 2

DECISION TAKEN:

After careful consideration we require assistance in “understanding the specialisms that will drive growth within Doncaster based on a quantitative and qualitative assessment of local strengths and growth opportunities, whilst making recommendations as to how Doncaster Council might drive growth through the development and exploitation of these specialisms.”

The decision record therefore requires £18,730 to finance an organisation (Ortus) to undertake this work within the financial period 2018/19. The expenditure is to derive from the core budget contained within the Strategy & Performance Unit.

Box 3

REASON FOR THE DECISION:

With the launch of HM Government Industrial Strategy in Autumn 2017; the importance of achieving Inclusive Economic Growth has never been more present in an economy that is preparing itself for life post Brexit, that is why within Doncaster we need to undertake a piece of high level research that understands the specialisms that will maximise levels of growth within key employment sectors. The outcomes from this will then ensure the reforms contained within the Doncaster Growing Together Programme (particularly the Working Theme) are tailored appropriately, ensuring we provide the best outcomes for our residents and businesses, whilst providing maxim value for money.

Overall Assessment

In regards to compliance to Doncaster Financial Procedure rules we approached three external companies who have provided written quotes for the research Doncaster Council seeks. Of the 3 proposals that responded (Ortus, Ekosgen and EMSI), the proposal from Ortus is by far the strongest according to the unanimous view of a panel made up by representatives from Strategy & Performance and Regeneration (Christian Foster, Jenny Holmes and Andy Pattinson). It has the potential to provide the most added-value beyond the data which the Council already has access to.

Key strengths of the proposal are the:

- Blending of different perspectives, data and qualitative knowledge to identify strengths and opportunities which may not be apparent from a drill down into Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes (this forms a core part of the ekosgen and EMSI proposals). For example Ortus, will consider the ‘enablers’ that are key to maximising economic opportunity and growth across any identified platforms or sectors.
- The core proposal from Ortus is combined with the commitment of the input of expertise and resources from Sheffield University – in particular the involvement of Professor Tim Vorley, Chair in Entrepreneurship at Sheffield University Management School and Deputy Director of the new, national Productivity Insights Network. He has significant experience of working with the UK Government and across the world in the field of entrepreneurship and innovation. The Council already has a strong Strategic Research Partnership with the University, in particular Professor Tim Vorley. This has, for example, over recent years led to 4 PhD students undertaking projects focussed on Doncaster at minimal cost to the Council. Professor Vorley’s involvement opens up:
 - a local, regional, national and international network of best practice and expertise
 - insights based on the interface with industry/market opportunities – not just data analytics.
 - A focus on pragmatic and realistic suggestions for interventions to promote inclusive growth
 - The flexibility to pursue potential avenues of interest as they emerge during the study
- Track record – Andrew Graves, along with Professor Tim Vorley & Dr Nick Williams from the University of Sheffield produced the ‘SCR Smart Specialisation report’ in 2014 which provides an example of the added value that can be provided, this directly informed the SCR Strategic Economic plan.

The product created from this research is critical to Team Doncaster ambitions to raise economic growth and productivity, and will facilitate a step change in ambition and aspiration providing distinct recommendations on interventions that will achieve inclusive growth.

The Governance structure supporting this key piece of work is:

- **Core Officer Group** – This key piece of work will be managed by the Strategy & Performance Unit – liaising with colleagues from Regeneration, thus ensuring the alignment of research to key DGT reforms
- **Governance Board** - The Inclusive Growth Board has ultimate strategic responsibility for the working theme; the Inclusive Growth Strategy and this proposed research are key reforms contained within the DGT programme, as such will be monitored by the Board on progress and quality.

Box 4**OPTIONS CONSIDERED & REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION:**

If other options were considered, please specify and give reasons for recommended option

OPTION 1 – Recommended

Approve the allocation of £18,730 to appoint Ortus to undertake quantitative and qualitative assessment of local strengths and growth opportunities. We strongly recommend this as the preferred option to ensure that the reforms contained within the Doncaster Growing Together programme, especially around sectorial development and enhancement receive the appropriate focus. This is a unique opportunity for Doncaster, the preferred contractor receives national recognition for their voice on issues of inclusive growth; this wealth of knowledge will be instrumental in achieving a prosperous place.

OPTION 2 – Do nothing

We could determine not to approach external organisations that have a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the critique of sectorial strengths and analysis; by utilising existing staff resources we believe the knowledge base is somewhat limited and will result in stifled reforms that will not achieve the levels of inclusive growth and GVA wealth that we require. We are of the opinion that the small investment attributed to this decision record will result in a far greater return in investment both for our residents and our businesses alike.

Box 5**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the Council with a general power of competence, allowing the Council to do anything that individuals generally may do. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives an Authority power to purchase goods and services.

The appointment of any contracts associated with this work should be carried out in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules

**Name: Scott Fawcus Signature: SR Fawcus (by email) Date: 23/3/18
Signature of Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services (or representative)**

Box 6**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

As indicated in the body of the report the cost to appoint Ortus to undertake research work will be £18,730. Funding has been identified from 2018-19 Strategy and Performance Unit budgets.

**Signature: A Gosney (by email) Date: 20/03/2018
Signature of Assistant Director of Finance & Performance
(or representative)**

Box 7

HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no specific Human Resource implications to this decision

Name: Kate Goodman Signature: Kate Goodman (by email) Date: 20.03.18
Signature of Assistant Director of Human Resources and Communications (or representative)

Box 8

PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS:

As illustrated within the body of the report the commissioning of this assessment has been carried out in line with the Councils contract procedure rules by way of seeking competitive quotations.

To record the award decision a suitable contract award notice must be completed and returned to the Strategic Procurement Team


Name: S Duffield Signature:  Date: 19/03/18
Signature of Assistant Director of Finance & Performance (or representative)

Box 9

ICT IMPLICATIONS:

There are no anticipated ICT implications in relation to this decision.

Name: Peter Ward (Governance & Support Manager)

Signature:  Date: 19/03/18

Signature of Assistant Director of Customers, Digital & ICT (or representative)

Box 10

ASSET IMPLICATIONS:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report that impact on the use of DMBC assets.

Name: Gillian Fairbrother (Principal Property Surveyor)

Signature: By email Date: 20th March, 2018

Signature of Assistant Director of Trading Services and Assets (or representative)

Box 11**RISK IMPLICATIONS:****To be completed by the report author**

With the Doncaster Growing Together programme we clearly articulate the need to have strong foundations to achieve more for the people of Doncaster, whilst making the very best of the resources that we has partners have at our disposal; therefore we need to ensure that the reforms contained within the DGT (working) programme deliver our vision and ambition succinctly and with the maximum value for money; by appointing Ortis this ensures the risks of misaligning resources to reforms is minimised.

(Explain the impact of not taking this decision and in the case of capital schemes, any risks associated with the delivery of the project)

Box 12**EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:****To be completed by the report author**

The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council to show 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relationships between those who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not share that protected characteristic.

The completion and undertaking of this proposal will ensure we adhere to the appropriate acts whilst ensuring we receive a balanced view.

**Name: Christian Foster Signature: By email Date: 15/3/18
(Report author)**

Box 13**CONSULTATION**

Colleagues within Strategy & Performance Unit and the Regeneration Directorate are the core departments leading the request for this key piece of work, officers from both these areas are in complete agreement that this reform is required. Given the nature of this proposal; the Inclusive Growth Board which has key senior officers from Doncaster Council, and from external organisation will have cite of how this work is progressing to the quality and standard required.

Box 14

INFORMATION NOT FOR PUBLICATION:

It is in the public's interest to be aware of this decision record under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, therefore this decision will be published in full, redacting signatures only.

Name: Michael McBurney Signature:  Date: _03/04/2018_
Signature of FOI Lead Officer for service area where ODR originates

Box 15

Signed:  Date: 16th April 2018
Lee Tillman Assistant Director

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Additional Signature of Chief Financial Officer or nominated representative for Capital decisions (if required)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Signature of Mayor or relevant Cabinet Member consulted on the above decision (if required).

- This decision can be implemented immediately unless it relates to a Capital Scheme that requires the approval of Cabinet. All Cabinet decisions are subject to call in.
- A record of this decision should be kept by the relevant Director's PA for accountability and published on the Council's website.
- A copy of this decision should be sent to the originating Directorate's FOI Lead Officer to consider 'information not for publication' prior to being published on the Council's website.
- A PDF copy of the signed decision record should be e-mailed to the LA Democratic Services mailbox