



OFFICER DECISION RECORD

For staff restructures, please also complete an RA1 form to update the HR Portal. (See Annex 2 on Intranet.)

Decision Ref. No:

RE18 0062

Box 1

DIRECTORATE: Corporate Resources

DATE: 30th April 2018

Contact Name: Karen South

Tel. No.: 01302 736236

Subject Matter: Rail College budget and Bursaries for 2018/19

This officer decision record seeks the approval to:

1. Amend the focus of the 2018/19 rail college budget and
2. Approve up to £20,000 from that same budget, for two bursaries at the rail college for the 2018/19 academic year.

Box 2

DECISION TAKEN:

1. Amend the focus of the 2018/19 rail college budget

To amend the focus and use of the remainder of the existing rail college budget, initially allocated to enable pre-construction related works, surveys and design related professional services and support additional costs associated with the development of the College, to include; development of the rail sector, promote the National College for High Speed Rail in Doncaster and continue to pay the salary and associated costs of the Rail Sector Development Manager for a further 12 months, in order to achieve our growth objectives by continuing to support and develop the rail industry.

2. Approve up to £20,000 for two bursaries at the rail college for the 2018/19 academic year

Approve the allocation of up to £20,000 from that same budget for two bursaries at the rail College for the 2018/19 academic year, to provide student bursaries to those from less advantaged backgrounds and underrepresented demographics.

Box 3

REASON FOR THE DECISION:

Give relevant background information

Originally £250k was allocated in respect of revenue expenditure under the heading of pre-construction costs. Subsequently a further £150k was allocated from the 'Revenue

Contributions to Capital Programme' making a total of £400k.

This budget that was allocated to additional costs associated with the development of the College including further detailed development of the curriculum and creation of opportunities for local residents to access the College, any anticipated costs that may be used to support these activities and for any unforeseen costs due to the relatively early stage of the project.

There are sufficient funds left in the budget to fund the Rail Sector Development Manager for a further 12 months, along with additional areas of expenditure in 2018/19 that this budget is likely to be used for; the bursaries and IOT work as well as funding rail sector development work around supporting the rail sector and attracting inward investment. Success in these areas will present new opportunities for NCHSR in Doncaster which is currently facing challenges around student numbers. Rail continues to be one of Doncaster's key sectors and if we are to achieve our growth objectives we must continue to support and develop the rail industry.

The college opened in September 2017 but there is still much work to do in terms of attaining a full cohort of students. Developing the sector, bringing in new inward investment and supporting our existing cluster to grow will significantly improve the prospect of achieving full capacity at NCHSR.

Since the creation of Rail Sector Development Manager, Doncaster has been selected by DIT to be the first pilot project in a new approach to inward investment. Business Doncaster worked in conjunction with DIT to prepare a Doncaster 'pitch' that will be trialled in 2018 across a number of overseas locations.

The Rail Sector Development Manager was a founder partner in the Northern Rail Industry Leadership Group which brings together leading rail sector businesses, rail industry bodies and universities to look at developing the rail sector across the North of England. This group will officially launch in April 2018 and is working with Northern Powerhouse Rail and TFN.

Doncaster now has one of the leading rail clusters in the UK but there are significant growth opportunities. The government has outlined spending plans for the next couple of decades that will result in over £90bn being spent on rail related projects. Doncaster needs to be ready to take a good portion of this expenditure by enabling the Rail Sector Development Manager to continue to work with key partners, namely, The National College for High Speed Rail (NCHSR).

BEIS (the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) are now working with us to develop the 'Rail Sector Deal' which will determine government support for the sector. BEIS are actively promoting Doncaster as a centre of rail excellence.

The Rail Sector Development Manager is continuing to promote Doncaster nationally, attending sector groups in Rail Freight, High Speed Rail and working with other clusters notably Rail Forum East Midlands in Derby and Midlands Engine. In addition, we actively promote Doncaster as a location at major rail events such as Railtex, Infrarail and Rail Live in the UK and we will be attending Innotrans in Berlin, the world's largest rail exhibition working in conjunction with SCR, DIT, BEIS, Northern Powerhouse Rail and Midlands Engine.

We continue to work with young people to promote the opportunities in rail by engaging

with and actively supporting STEM related events that include Teentech (Doncaster), Big Bang (Doncaster) and Get Up To Speed (Rotherham). Each of these events and organisations aim to present an exciting vision of the rail and engineering sectors to help engage young people. We are working with iRail to bring this event to Doncaster in 2018. This will bring together rail companies, schools and colleges to specifically promote the industry to a new generation and will be held at NCHSR.

Up to £20,000 will be provided to the National College for High Speed Rail, as a grant, for the College to provide two bursaries for two Doncaster residents to study at the College during 2018/19 academic year, which builds on the current year bursaries that were provided by DMBC during 2017/18. The Council's contribution to the Bursary will support 2 students accessing the Certificate of Higher Education, which is a one year course. The Council will continue to work with the Rail College to allocate bursaries based on criteria agreed with DMBC.

The National College for High Speed Rail's bursary scheme is being used to attract a wide pool of talent into the College and the careers that the College's provision leads to. The scheme has a particular focus on supporting those from less advantaged backgrounds for whom finances may be a barrier to learning, either in terms of tuition fees, or maintenance costs while studying. The bursary scheme will be used to encourage applications from underrepresented demographics in the rail industry, particularly females and those from an ethnic minority background.

Box 4

OPTIONS CONSIDERED & REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION:

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

Option 1: (Recommended): Refocus the existing budget allocated to support development of the rail sector, promote the National College for High Speed Rail in Doncaster and continue to pay the salary and associated costs of the Rail Sector Development Manager for a further 12 months, in order to achieve our growth objectives by continuing to support and develop the rail industry. Also approve up to £20,000 of that same budget for two bursaries at the rail College for the 2018/19 academic year.

The Mayor and Chief Executive are keen that the Council supports access to the National College for High Speed Rail for Doncaster residents. The bursary will promote diversity and enable residents from disadvantaged communities to train at the College. The Rail College is a crucial economic and social asset for the Borough and plays a key role in improving social mobility and life chances for residents while also providing training for roles in higher quality, better paid employment.

Option 2: Refocus the existing budget allocated to support development of the rail sector and promote the National College for High Speed Rail in Doncaster (**do not** approve £20,00 for two bursaries at the rail College for the 2018/19 academic year, thus not promoting diversity and enabling residents from disadvantaged communities to train at the College).

Option 3: Approve £20,000 of the existing budget allocated to support development of the rail sector and promote the National College for High Speed Rail for the use of two bursaries at the rail College for the 2018/19 academic year. (**Do not** optimise our growth objectives through continued support and development of the rail industry).

Option 4: Do nothing (do not optimise our growth objectives through continued support and development of the rail industry).

Box 5

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the local authority the power to do anything that individuals may generally do.

There are no specific legal implication relating to the amendment of the focus of the 2018/16 rail college budget.

For the bursaries, the relevant Director must ensure the financial procedure rules E15 is complied with to ensure that the council interests are protected at all times.

A suitable grant agreement should be entered into with the National College for High Speed Rail Doncaster. ..

Name: Nicky Dobson

Date: 23rd May 2018

Signature of Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services (or representative)

Box 6

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost of the above proposal to provide up to £20k to NCHSR to fund two bursaries will be met from Regeneration and Environment rail college revenue budget (EZ012).

In 2014/15 £1.5m resources were put into an earmarked reserve to meet “potential revenue costs associated with the capital programme”. The creation of the reserve was approved by Cabinet as part of the Finance and Improvement report 2013/14 Quarter 4 on 18th June 2014. Authority to draw on this money was later delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Environment.

£400k of the above resources was allocated to support revenue costs associated with the development of the rail college. Approval for the £400k was by ODR (£250k) and Cabinet (£150k) in March 2015 and June 2015 respectively.

Commitments of £326k have been made against this fund to date, leaving an uncommitted balance of £74k. ODR (SPU/IOT/Mar00118) proposes to allocate a further £35k for Institute of Technology/Student Accommodation. If this proposal progresses then there will be a remaining balance of £39k from which the £20k required for 18/19 bursaries can be paid.

The funding will be given as a grant and therefore under Financial Procedure Rule (FPR) E.14 this ODR will need to be signed by the Director of Regeneration and Environment:-

"E.14 The approval of Cabinet is required for all grants and annual assistance to external bodies with a financial value of £50,000 or more with the exception of Academies, VA schools for capital projects and joint arrangements under sections 75 and 76 of the National Health Service Act 2006. Where the value in total per annum to any one body is below £50,000 the respective Directors may approve such assistance subject to other requirements of these financial procedure rules and related guidance and this approval being formally recorded."

Irrespective of where approval responsibility rests, the relevant Director must ensure the Council's interests are protected at all times and must be in a position to provide assurance that certain requirements have been met, or will be met, before any grant is paid. These are referred to in section E of the FPRs and include the requirement for an appropriate agreement to be in place between the Council and NCHSR covering the conditions relating to the use of the grant and outlining certain processes eg. the selection criteria.

£19k will then remain to be spent in line with the refocussed budget to support the development of the rail industry as outlined in the above report and subject to the agreement of the Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Name: Bev Crossley **Signature:**  **Date:** 03/05/2018
Signature of Chief Financial Officer & Assistant Director of Finance (or representative)

Box 7

HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no immediate HR implications arising from the approval of this ODR and the proposed re-focus of the 18/19 Rail College budget, however, any future changes that impact on the workforce will require HR engagement and would require separate approval as appropriate.

Name: Claire Rudd **Signature:**  **Date:** 01/05/2018
Signature of Assistant Director of Human Resources and Communications (or representative)

Box 8

PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS:

There are no direct procurement implications associated with this report

Name: S Duffield **Signature:**  **Date:** 04/05/18
Signature of Assistant Director of Finance & Performance (or representative)

Box 9**ICT IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no ICT implications associated with this decision.

Name: Peter Ward (Governance & Support Manager)

Signature: [REDACTED] **Date:** 01/05/18

**Signature of Assistant Director of Customer Services and 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:** 1st May, 2018

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

Box 11**RISK IMPLICATIONS:**

To be completed by the report author

Amending the existing budget allocated to support development of the rail sector and promote the National College for High Speed Rail in Doncaster will enable us to achieve our growth objectives by continuing to support and develop the rail industry.

To do nothing could result in the loss of potential significant growth opportunities and our opportunity to secure additional funding, of which over £90bn has been designated to rail related projects over the next couple of decades. Doncaster needs to be in a position to capitalise on a good portion of this expenditure.

The National College for High Speed Rail opened its doors in September 2017 to provide training and work experience to learners aged 18 and above in all aspects of what makes a modern railway, through a focus on inclusion, working in partnership, aiming for excellence, innovating, challenging the norm and making sure everybody is healthy, safe and supported at all times.

There are some striking inequalities in the rail industry, particularly the representation of females and those from minority ethnic backgrounds. The College's bursary scheme will be used to encourage applicants from these groups residing in Doncaster.

If this and ODR (SPU/IOT/Mar00118) for £35k for Institute of Technology/Student Accommodation are approved consideration would have to be given to the future of the Rail Sector Development Manager post beyond this financial year.

(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

Decision makers must consider the Council's duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty at s149 of the Equality Act 2010. The duty requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the act, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not share that protected characteristic.

The bursary is designed to provide an improvement in the equality of access to the training on offer at the College by supporting applications from disadvantaged communities and increasing diversity.

**Name: Karen South
(Report author)**

Signature:



Date: 30th April 2018

Box 13

CONSULTATION

Officers

(In addition to Finance, Legal and Human Resource implications and Procurement implications where necessary, please list below any other teams consulted on this decision, together with their comments)

The Mayor and Chief Executive have asked that bursaries are provided that support Doncaster residents to train at the College.

Members

Under the Scheme of delegation, officers are responsible for day to day operational matters as well as implementing decisions that have been taken by Council, Cabinet, Committee or individual Cabinet members. Further consultation with Members is not ordinarily required. However, where an ODR relates to a matter which has significant policy, service or operational implications or is known to be politically sensitive, the officer shall first consult with the appropriate Cabinet Member before exercising the delegated powers. In appropriate cases, officers will also need to consult with the Chair of Council, Committee Chairs or the Chair of an Overview and Scrutiny Panel as required. Officers shall also ensure that local Members are kept informed of matters

affecting their Wards.

Please list any comments from Members below:

No comments from members other than the Mayor as stated above.

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: 03/05/2017

Signature of FOI Lead Officer for service area where ODR originates

Box 15

Signed:  Date: 6/6/18
Peter Dale, Assistant Director Regeneration and Environment

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Additional Signature of Chief Financial Officer or nominated representative for Capital decisions.

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