

DELEGATED POWERS REPORT NO.**1758**

SUBJECT: Approval to commission Middlesex University to support the council in developing its analysis of the business sector in Barnet and to develop indicators against which the impacts of growth can be measured

Control sheet

All of the following actions MUST be completed at each stage of the process and the signed and dated report MUST be passed to the Governance Service for publishing

All reports		
1. Governance Service receive draft report	Name of GSO Date	Paul Frost 18/07/12
2. Governance Service cleared draft report as being constitutionally appropriate	Name of GSO Date	Paul Frost 18/07/12
3. Finance clearance obtained (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of Fin. officer Date	Stephen Reimer 24/07/12
4. Staff and other resources issues clearance obtained (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of Res. officer Date	Cynthia Scott-Carnegie 13/07/12
5. Strategic Procurement clearance obtained (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of SPO Date	Nanette Young 18/07/12
6. Legal clearance obtained from (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of Legal officer Date	Tobenna Erojikwe 19/07/12
7. Policy & Partnerships clearance obtained (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of P&P officer Date	Julie Pal 12/07/12
8. Equalities & Diversity clearance obtained (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of officer Date	Julie Pal 12/07/12
9. The above process has been checked and verified by Director, Head of Service or Deputy	Name Date	Stephen Evans 26/07/12
10. Signed & dated report, <u>scanned or hard copy</u> received by Governance Service for publishing	Name of GSO Date	Paul Frost 31/07/12
11. Report published by Governance Service to website	Name of GSO Date	Paul Frost 31/07/12
12. Head of Service informed report is published	Name of GSO Date	Paul Frost 31/07/12
13. Expiry of call-in period	Date	N/A
14. Report circulated for call-in purposes to Business Management OSC members & copied to Cabinet Members & Head of Service	Name of GSO Date	N/A

ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS BY OFFICER (COUNCIL FUNCTION)

Subject Approval to commission Middlesex University to support the council in developing its analysis of the business sector in Barnet and to develop indicators against which the impacts of growth can be measured

Officer taking decision Assistant Director – Strategy and Policy

Date of decision 26 July 2012

Summary	Approval to commission Middlesex University to support the council in developing its analysis of the business sector in Barnet and to develop indicators against which the impacts of growth can be measured. The contract value is £22,260.
----------------	--

Officer Contributors Jodie Yandall, Regeneration Service
Gabrielle Melvin, Regeneration Service

Status (public or exempt) Public

Wards affected All

Enclosures None

Contact for further information: Jodie Yandall, 0208 359 7975

Serial No. 1758

1. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 1.1 Cabinet, 20th June 2012 (item 6) – authorisation of the Barnet Skills, Employment and Enterprise Action Plan and a package of targeted support to help young people into employment, including support to local businesses

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 Producing an economic development and growth strategy will help us work towards one of the key aims of the Corporate Plan which is to sustain Barnet as a 'successful London suburb'.
- 2.2 This research contributes to the key objective of developing our level of engagement with businesses. Supporting local businesses better through an improved understanding of their needs will ensure we can be more responsive to the sector and ensure its continuing success.

3. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 3.1 The issues involved are not likely to raise significant levels of public concern or give rise to policy considerations as this research is designed to help us better support the needs of the local economy, an aim which will positively benefit the whole borough.

4. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 4.1 Any organisation providing public sector services will be under scrutiny of the council to ensure that the delivery of services complies with the council's public sector equalities duties.
- 4.2 This research is designed to help us better support the needs of the local economy, an aim which will positively benefit the whole borough. Understanding our businesses and supporting growth will ensure adequate employment opportunities for residents; this will help the borough to remain cohesive and at ease with its growing diversity.

5. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.1 The resources recommended for approval are £22,260. This funding will be drawn from the 2012/13 contingency reserve.
- 5.2 There are no staffing, ICT or property implications in the context of this report.

6. LEGAL ISSUES

- 6.1 Council officers must ensure that they adhere to the requirement below of the Council's constitution in carrying out the procurement exercise for the services that this report relates to.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 7.1 Constitution, Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions, Section 6.1 – Powers of Chief Officers - Chief Officers may use whatever means they consider appropriate to discharge the functions allocated to them.
- 7.2 The Council's Constitution, under the contract procedure rules, provides that service contracts with values of less than 24,999 must be procured using a reasonable means of selection including budget authorisation and an audit trail. Reasonable means of selection is defined in the constitution as” – an unbiased selection process based on the relative merits of the quotation provided and taking account of previous purchasing practices for supplies, services or works of a similar type. This process would normally involve attaining more than one quotation, audit trail of action undertaken and confirmation from Assistant Director that budget is available and rationale for appointment is accepted.”

8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 8.1 Despite the challenging economic climate, Barnet remains a successful and enterprising borough, with the third highest number of registered businesses in London. However, there are variations in different parts of the borough. There are areas of deprivation, notably around the western boundary's 'A5 corridor' and in some of our local housing estates.
- 8.2 Our aim is to ensure Barnet remains a successful London borough despite a challenging economic climate and reduced public funding. We believe one of the best ways to do this is to promote enterprise and employment, and develop new business and growth.
- 8.3 The Barnet Skills, Employment and Enterprise Action Plan and package of support to unemployed young people has been approved by Cabinet. These papers focus on the need to understand local businesses and our economy to ensure we have an adequate supply of employment opportunities for residents. They also establish a strategy for growth in the borough, something that is of particular importance given the changes to business rates retention in upcoming months.
- 8.4 We need a better understanding of the employment and skills needs of Barnet employers, as well as other factors which may be constraining business growth. Research undertaken by Middlesex University will provide us with an analysis of the enterprise dynamics in the Barnet economy. It will also provide us with the relevant indicators by which we can track the performance of the economy in relation to any interventions undertaken. The project will also contribute towards the council's objective of developing effective business engagement. The research will produce

an interim report based on desk based analysis by October 2012 and a final report including policy recommendations by December 2012.

- 8.5 Given the University's experience in business and enterprise research, their location within the borough and the geographical focus of the research, it was deemed appropriate that they were selected to undertake this piece of work.

9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Cabinet, 20th June 2012 – Barnet Skills, Employment and Enterprise Action Plan and a package of targeted support to help young people into employment, including support to local businesses

10. OFFICER'S DECISION

I authorise the following action

- 10.1 **To approve the payment of £22,260 to Middlesex University from the 2012/13 contingency reserve.**

Signed **Stephen Evans**

Date **26/07/12**