

Record of Officer's Decision
The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Date of Decision:	17 th December 2025
Decision Maker (Officer):	Lee Heley, Deputy Chief Executive & Corporate Director, Place and Wellbeing
Authority for Delegated Decision (Cabinet/Committee Decision or Scheme of Delegation – provide reference):	Part 3, Schedule 3 – Responsibility for Executive Functions delegated to Officers paragraph 4.3 (1) – the Corporate Director has delegated authority to discharge executive functions within their respective service areas (Part 3.38). All delegations are subject to consultation where considered appropriate in the circumstances (paragraph 4.3 (4(ii) – Part 3.39).
Identify which Portfolio Holder(s)/Committee Chairman consulted?	Cllr. Ivan Henderson, Deputy Leader & portfolio for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism
Ward Member(s) consulted?	No
Is it a Key Decision?	No
Is it subject to call-in?	No
Decision Made:	To award the contract to GC Insight for the value of £19,825, to review and refresh the existing 2019 Economic Growth Strategy for Tendring, identifying remaining opportunities from the previous work which are outstanding/ongoing, as well as new opportunities which are anticipated as part of Devolution and LGR.
Reason for Decision (if a report was produced to support the Decision, refer to it):	The current Economic Development Strategy, produced by Hatch Regeneris in 2019 (accompanied by a Socio-Economic Baseline), expired in 2024 and is therefore in need of updating, both in line with events which have occurred since its adoption by the Council (COVID-19, change in government, other economic impacts) but also the emerging Local Plan. As part of the Local Plan review, TDC's Planning department agreed to include a light touch review of the Economic Development Strategy to ensure it continues to align with the needs and priorities of the district and the emerging new Local Plan.

	Following the review by external consultants (ekosgen 2025), it was advised that opportunities for delivery identified in the previous Strategy and the 5 identified objectives remain relevant locally. Further to this, taking into consideration Local Government Reorganisation, it was felt inappropriate for a new strategy to be developed and that a refresh of the existing document to align with new opportunities and risks would be sufficient to cover the next three years until TDC becomes part of the new combined authority. To ensure the refresh of the Economic Development Strategy is as current as possible, aligns with neighbouring authorities and has a refreshed Socio-Economic Baseline a full Request for Quotation (RfQ) process took place to secure a consultant and after a subsequent evaluation, GC Insight have been selected as the preferred supplier based on value for money.
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Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal /Equality considerations:	No specific high impact risks identified at this stage however without an updated and fully adopted Strategy there may be a weaker position going into Devolution and LGR, as well as being underprepared to grasp other opportunities e.g. Freeport East and NSIPs.
Details of any Alternative Options Considered and rejected (together with reasons):	Not to proceed with refreshing the Economic Growth Strategy and risk being underprepared to grasp opportunities such as Freeport East and NSIPs. To proceed with an alternative supplier, who submitted quotations over budget.
Details of any declarations of interest (by Portfolio Holder/Committee Chairman who was consulted by the officer, which related to the decision) If relevant, a note of the dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer:	Not applicable

Reason Decision, or supporting Report, is not published: <i>Tick one or more of the specific exemptions, <u>and</u></i> <i>Give more information in the final box with regards to why the exemption applies and outweighs the public interest test (which is in favour of disclosure).</i>		The report supporting the Decision contains confidential information
		The Report supporting the Decision falls within an exemption pursuant to Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 Information:
	☐	☐ Relates to an individual
	☐	☐ Likely to reveal the identity of an individual
		☐ Relating to financial or business affairs of a person or organisation
		☐ Relates to a claim for legal professional privilege in legal proceedings
		☐ Reveals that the Council proposes to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or to make an order or direction under any enactment
		☐ Relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime
		<u>And</u> is exempt if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in
	maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information Reasons:	

Officers

Signed: Lee Heley

Title: Deputy Chief Executive &
Corporate Director, Place and
Wellbeing

Dated: 17th December 2025