

# Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

## Case Study

### Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) and De Montfort University

*"The KTP has had a significant positive impact on APSE by building research skills and capacity in our organisation and allowing us to enhance engagement at a senior level with our membership."* **Paul O'Brien, Chief Executive, APSE**

#### Background

APSE is a not-for-profit local government association, providing practical advice on policy, research and operations to over 300 councils throughout the UK. With cuts to local authority spending, APSE foresaw a need to adjust, to address the change in their market.

#### Objective

The KTP sought to develop practical tools and guides to enable APSE to offer specialist services to, and advocacy for, councils addressing the operational challenges of reduced public spending.

#### Company benefits

The KTP has played an important role in both membership retention and growth; it has facilitated a focused and resonant programme of engagement with, and provision of services for, member authorities at both strategic and operational levels. The project has raised the bar in terms of effective advocacy, and enabled APSE staff to achieve a greater capability to engage in research. The project has also helped to empower staff to lead on a range of other projects.

#### Associate benefits

- Project management, including the ability to manage risk, differing stakeholders, and multiple competing demands.
- Increased level of interpersonal skills.
- Effectively disseminated the results of research to a range of audiences in a highly political environment.
- Completed a range of training at DMU including:
  - Change management
  - Team management and leadership
  - Intellectual Property Rights and Ethics

These skills together with the development of a rich understanding of the public policy environment were significant in Adele's appointment to 'New Economy', an organisation delivering policy, strategy, and research to drive Greater Manchester's economic growth and prosperity.

**Adele Reynolds**

**KTP Associate**

*"The KTP provided an excellent opportunity to research a wide range of public policy issues and gain a strong set of transferable skills such as managing multiple stakeholders and projects."*



#### University benefits

The KTP has informed, strengthened and diversified the teaching offer at DMU. The project has formed the basis of the proposal, validation, and delivery of a range of new courses delivered in an innovative cross-faculty learning format for public and voluntary sector professionals.

The KTP has aided the supervisory team in developing a range of 3\*/4\* research outputs that are eligible to be submitted to the universities REF Assessment and informed wider research activity including an ESRC seminar series.

#### Partnership outcomes

**In recognition of the accomplished success of this KTP, it has been awarded a top 'A' rating by the TSB.**

Continued collaboration will take the form of joint bids for funding to research councils, as well as research projects with APSE members. To facilitate this collaboration, DMU has appointed Michael Hughes, who has worked as a trusted research collaborator with APSE, as honorary research fellow to work on DMU-APSE collaborations. It is also planned that Paul O'Brien, Chief Executive of APSE, will join an external advisory group for the Faculty of Business and Law at DMU.

#### Get in touch

For more information about how we can help your business, call (0116) 250 6211 and speak to a member of the Knowledge Exchange Team, alternatively visit [dmu.ac.uk/ktp](http://dmu.ac.uk/ktp)

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