

Locum News in Brief



Appointments

As some of you may have noticed *LDR* has a new editor. Locum is delighted to welcome Charlie Courtauld to the team. Charlie is currently Assistant Editor at the *Independent on Sunday* (where he is also the TV critic, leader writer and columnist), and has, in addition, a significant pedigree in both TV and newspaper journalism. Charlie has been editor of *Question Time*, *the Midnight Hour* and *A Week in Politics* and has also produced *Newsnight*. In addition to his current role with Locum and the *Independent on Sunday* he is a Blogger for Guardian Politics on Line and continues to work as a freelance editor for the BBC, particularly in support of political conference programming.

This is a significant appointment for Locum and reflects not only our desire to attract the best people but our very specific wish to ensure that *LDR* lives up to its name as the journal of record for the destination industry.

Elsewhere the team continues to grow with the appointment of Jonathan Brown as Tourism Insights Manager and Jonny Anstead as a Research Consultant.

Jonathan's appointment reflects the growing amount of work Locum is undertaking in the tourism sector and the increasing requirement for sophisticated research and analysis. With a Masters in Travel and Tourism from the University of Surrey and a professional background in Research and Business Support at both the English Tourist Board and British Tourist Authority, Jonathan is a significant additional resource for the team.



The SuperLambBanana, Liverpool

Jonny is a recent graduate from Selwyn College, Cambridge where he received a First in Modern and Medieval Languages. He will be joining the team to provide additional research capacity in support of a wide range of different projects and initiatives. His extra curricular interests and hobbies include running his own band and appearing as a stand-up comic.

Liverpool

Following the recent announcement of Liverpool's successful bid to become European Capital of Culture 2008, I am delighted to report the significant amount of work we have been doing in and for the City over the past months. Working directly with Liverpool City Council's CEO, David Henshaw, and Sir Bob Scott, CEO of the Bid vehicle, The Culture Company, Locum has been advising on all aspects of the Bid's preparation, submission and ongoing response. We will continue to work closely with the team over the coming months and years.

In addition, we have been working, through Liverpool Vision, with the key stakeholders (including The City Council, the RDA, Government Office and English Partnerships) to bring together the significant and dramatic array of capital projects proposed for Liverpool's world-class waterfront.



Capital of Culture celebrations, Liverpool

Belfast

We are delighted to be working in Belfast once again after a break of some months. With appointments from both the Laganside Corporation and a local developer, CUSP, Locum is contributing to the strategic thinking in support of a mixed-use redevelopment scheme for Belfast's Cathedral Quarter. The scheme, comprising an arts centre, retail, residential and office accommodation, presents a significant opportunity to generate a genuinely unique new cultural quarter for the city.

Glamorgan Records office

Locum is undertaking a comprehensive site options appraisal for the Glamorgan Records Office. The Records Office has outgrown its current accommodation within Cardiff University's Glamorgan Building. Moreover, the University intends to expand into the building upon expiry of the Records Office's lease in 2006. As a result, the Records Office has asked Locum to appraise objectively four potential sites for future relocation. This involves a full Green Book financial and qualitative appraisal of the short-listed sites which will provide a robust, objective and defensible rationale for selecting a preferred option.

Tourism

Locum's workload and track record in tourism continues to grow. Whilst we have ongoing commitments in Wales, London and the North West Region we have now secured further contracts for the delivery of tourism strategies for North Staffordshire, Worcester City, the Black Country, the East Midlands and West Midlands.

Locum is delighted to be working so extensively across the UK in this strategically important sector. This is fascinating and important work that will set the tone for the economic future of these regions over the years to come. Tourism is increasingly being recognised as an important sector of the country's economy and our outputs focus on the identification of key areas of investment for the maximisation of growth.

Portsmouth

In Portsmouth we have been invited to undertake a study, funded by SEEDA, to explore the options for a city-wide

marketing strategy and vehicle that brings together the various component elements of Portsmouth's leisure offer. Working closely with key stakeholders including the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and the City Council, the Locum team is progressing a series of detailed consultations in advance of Options Analysis and final recommendation.

Sport in the North East

Sport, like tourism, suffers from the fact that it cannot be easily defined as an industry and cuts across many sectors of the economy. As a result, its importance to the regional economy is difficult to demonstrate and routinely underestimated. For the RDA, ONE North East, Locum is leading a multi-disciplinary team of economists and sports industry specialists in the delivery of an economic analysis of the sports sector in the North East. Using a new technique for quantifying the 'immeasurable' impact of undefined economic sectors - known as multi-sector qualitative analysis - Locum hopes to demonstrate the importance and regional economic impact of sport in the North East.

Snoasis

Locum is working for a development consortium seeking to develop a residential winter sports venue in the East of England. Comprising Europe's largest artificial ski run, a bob sleigh run, ice rinks, an arena and extensive residential accommodation, this scheme is a major regional initiative running to many tens of millions of pounds in development costs. Locum has been asked to advise on market and feasibility issues as matters progress through the planning and funding stages.

Bilbao

Our work in Spain continues and we have recently won a significant piece of work from Bilbao's regeneration agency, Ria 2000. The appointment demands a wholesale examination of the development opportunities presented by a strategically important City Centre development site. Locum has been tasked with assessing various options from a series of different perspectives - financial, market, operational - in advance of selecting a preferred option for more detailed analysis and scrutiny.



Churnet Valley Railway, Staffordshire



Puente de la Salve, Bilbao