

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Policy & Resources	6 September 2018
<b>Subject:</b> Sponsorship of the 2018 London Conference Sponsorship of the Fabian Society's <i>London: Policy and Challenges into the 2020s</i> publication	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Colton Richards, Town Clerk's Department	

### Summary

As part of the City of London Corporation's Corporate Plan, 2018-23, there is a stated aim to engage with London on key issues of concern to our communities. The City Corporation has supported projects that accord well with this key policy priority in the past and continues to do so.

Two high level London engagement opportunities have arisen through think-tank partnerships.

- Sponsorship of the annual London Conference with the Centre for London on 7 November 2018, under the banner 'Working Capital'.
- Sponsorship of a publication of essays and a launch event, co-ordinated by the Fabian Society, entitled *London: Policy and Challenges into the 2020s*.

It is proposed that the City Corporation agree to be a sponsor of the London Conference 2017 for £25,000 and the Fabian Society publication and launch for £18,500, to be drawn from the Policy Initiatives Fund. The combined figure is £43,500. Support for these two projects ensures the City Corporation continues to engage in important policy debates on the future of London.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to agree to sponsor the following two projects supporting London engagement for a combined cost of £43,500, from your Committees 2018/19 Policy Initiatives Fund categorised as 'Events' and charged to City's Cash:

- The Centre for London's 2018 London Conference at a cost of £25,000
- The Fabian Society's *London: Policy and Challenges into the 2020s* publication at a cost of £18,500.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The Centre for London is a politically-independent, not-for-profit think-tank and charity focused on exploring economic and social challenges across London. The Centre of London's stated aim is to work with policymakers to develop "long-term, rigorous and radical solutions" for London.

2. Each year, the Centre for London holds its 'London Conference', where different policy issues affecting London are discussed with speeches, panel events, debates and interactive sessions. The conference is an invite-only event for business, third-sector and local government leaders. Representatives associated with the City Corporation who have previously spoken at the conference include Catherine McGuinness, Sir Mark Boleat, Sir Nicholas Kenyon and Sharon Ament.
3. The City Corporation has a longstanding relationship with the Centre for London, having given seed funding when the Centre was first set up in 2011 and further core funding in 2012 and 2013. It has collaborated with the Centre on a number of high-level events and projects, including being a sponsor of the London Conference in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. The City Corporation is also currently sponsoring an ongoing piece of research looking at London's relationship with the rest of the UK.
4. The London Conference sees political, business and third-sector leaders discuss issues affecting London and its future. The 2017 Conference had the theme 'Fair City' and featured appearances by Rajesh Agrawal, Deputy Mayor of London for Business, Stella Creasy, MP for Walthamstow, Stephanie Flanders from Bloomberg, Lord Peter Mandelson, and many more. The Policy Chairman also gave a speech on inclusive growth in London.
5. The Fabian Society, or Fabians, is a prominent left-leaning think-tank, in existence since 1884, which seeks to promote democratic socialist principles through practical and gradual reform. The Fabians played a leading role in the formation of the Labour Party and a number of the most influential Labour Party figures have been associated with it throughout its history.
6. The City Corporation has worked with the Fabians on several projects in the past. The most recent was a private roundtable at the 2017 Labour Party Conference, to discuss key Brexit issues with the Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, Sir Keir Starmer. The City Corporation will again be working with the Fabians at the 2018 Labour Party Conference to host a private roundtable on culture and commerce.
7. In 2013 the City Corporation supported the previous London-focused publication coordinated by the Fabians. The publication, '*Our London – The Capital Beyond 2015*', was edited by Sadiq Khan, who at the time was Shadow Minister for London, and featured a series of essays by leading London figures exploring key policy issues for the capital. Contributors included Andrew Adonis, Baroness Doreen Lawrence, Professor Tony Travers, Catherine West, Bonnie Greer and a chapter by the former Chairman of Policy and Resources, Mark Boleat.

### **Current Position**

8. The theme of this year's day-long London Conference is '*Working Capital*', with a focus on inclusive growth in London and ensuring all Londoners can access economic, social and cultural opportunities in the capital. Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, will be giving the keynote address. The conference will be held at the Congress Centre on 7 November 2018.

9. The Fabians intend to publish '*London: Policy and Challenges into the 2020s*' in November and a precise date will soon be confirmed, as will the identity of other contributors. Details of the launch event are to be finalised. This is a follow-up to the 2013 publication, '*Our London: The Capital Beyond 2015*', which the City Corporation also sponsored.
10. The list of contributors is to be confirmed, as is the editor. The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, will write an introduction. The essays, which will number around 20, will likely be divided into categories including Governing London, Public Services in London, London in the UK and the World, London as a Place to Live and Jobs and Growth in London.

### **Proposal**

11. It is proposed that the City Corporation agree to sponsor the London Conference for £25,000 and the Fabians publication and launch for £18,500. In total this is £43,500.
12. As a sponsor of the London Conference, the City Corporation would have:
  - A guaranteed speaking opportunity at the conference
  - Membership of the Advisory Group
  - An invitation to the pre-Conference dinner
  - Acknowledgement as a major sponsor on invitations, online and in press releases
  - Branding at the event and in promotional materials
  - 10 delegate places at the conference
  - Access to the final delegate list prior to the conference
13. As a sponsor of the Fabians' '*London: Policy and Challenges into the 2020s*' project the City Corporation would have:
  - A chapter by the Chairman of Policy and Resources on a chosen topic.
  - Acknowledgement as a sponsor and branding on the final publication and recognition in promotional materials, including on invitations, online and in press releases.
  - The launch event will feature City of London branding and speaker.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

14. Supporting and participating these two projects accords well with the City Corporation's key policy priority of engaging with London key issues of concern to our communities, as set out in the Corporate Plan 2018-23.

### **Financial Implications**

15. It is proposed that the required funding of £43,500 is drawn from your Committees 2018/19 Policy Initiatives Fund, categorised under 'Events' and charged to City's Cash. The current uncommitted balance in the 2018/19 Policy

Initiatives Fund is £218,841 prior to any allocation being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

**Conclusion**

16. Sponsoring the 2018 London Conference and Fabian Society publication will provide an opportunity for the City Corporation to continue its strategic engagement with key audiences on policy issues affecting London and to demonstrate the City Corporation's involvement in important policy debates on the future of the capital city.

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