

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Policy & Resources Committee	6 September 2018
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Public</b>
Indo-British All-Party Parliamentary Group sponsorship	
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
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### Summary

All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) are informal cross-party groups that consist of Members of both Houses who join together to pursue a particular topic or interest. They are of a variable nature, but they can provide a valuable opportunity for parliamentarians and individuals and organisations who share an interest in the subject matter of a Group to engage with each other on matters of common interest.

The City Corporation has for some years sponsored a number of Groups, in addition to providing unpaid support for others. This report sets out an opportunity for the City Corporation to engage with the Indo-British APPG and recommends initial sponsorship for one year.

### Recommendation

That the approval be given to the City of London Corporation becoming a member of the Indo-British APPG at a cost of £3,000, as well as the allocation of an additional £3,000 to support a financial services parliamentary breakfast seminar with senior City Corporation representation, both to be funded from your Committee's 2018/19 Policy Initiatives Fund, categorised under "Promoting the City" and charged to City's Cash.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. All-Party Parliamentary Groups are run by and for Members of the Commons and Lords and are established for a wide variety of purposes. APPGs are divided into two main types: those focused on relations with other countries, and subject groups that deal with specific policy issues, regions of the UK, or stakeholder communities.
2. APPGs provide a mechanism to enable MPs and Peers can meet those outside Parliament relevant to a Group's interests to discuss, campaign on and promote matters which concern them. Although APPGs have no formal role in the legislative process, the Groups can often be an effective political mechanism, providing an additional vehicle with which to spread awareness of issues within Parliament through meetings, visits, or events. A growing number have distinct policy objectives or agendas and employ a variety of tools to achieve their goals. This can include their members sponsoring parliamentary debates, conducting select committee-style inquiries, and introducing private members' bills.

3. Selective interaction with APPGs therefore provides an additional opportunity for the City Corporation to engage with key parliamentary stakeholders, with the Remembrancer's Office providing facilitation of parliamentary relations, and the relevant City Corporation department (in the case of India, the Economic Development Office) coordinating direction of messaging and subject matter of engagement.

#### **Proposal for membership of the Indo-British APPG**

4. An opportunity has arisen to engage with a new Group – the Indo-British APPG, chaired by Virendra Sharma MP – at a cost of £3,000 for one year's membership, and an optional additional cost of £3,000 to support a financial services parliamentary breakfast seminar with senior City Corporation representation.
5. If the City Corporation were to sponsor the Group, it would receive three invitations to each of the 8-10 breakfast or lunch meetings with high-level speakers. The City Corporation logo would be included in the website's list of supporters.
6. As an APPG event sponsor, the City Corporation would fund the cost of holding a breakfast event in Parliament at £3,000. The City Corporation would also be expected to reimburse the APPG secretariat for the costs of printing a short report following the event with the City Corporation's logo on the front cover. In addition to hard copy, the report would also be available on the Group's website.
7. To sponsor an event, an organisation must also sign up to be a supporter of the group for one year. Continued sponsorship would be reviewed after one year.
8. Sponsorship of the Indo-British APPG complements the Corporation's existing sponsorship of the China APPG, under the umbrella of the City Corporation's Asia programme. In addition, the City Corporation is celebrating 10 years of physical presence in Mumbai in 2018, which included the launch of the Asia Next Decade campaign earlier this year. This campaign, in consultation with industry and Government, aims to highlight future priorities for engagement between the UK and Asia. Informing and influencing Government and Parliament through channels such as All-Party Parliamentary Groups is therefore an important part of this work.

#### **Implications for the City Corporation**

9. It is proposed that funding of £3,000 for one year's membership to the Indo-British APPG and £3,000 to support a financial services parliamentary breakfast seminar with senior City Corporation representation is to be met from the 2018/19 Policy and Resources Committee Policy Initiatives Fund, categorised under "Promoting the City" and charged to City's Cash.
10. The current uncommitted balance available within the Policy and Resources Committee Policy Initiatives Fund for 2018/19 amounts to £218,841. This is prior to any allowances being made for any other proposals made by urgency.

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