

Committee(s) Policy and Resources	Date: 17 January 2019
Subject: Sponsorship of the CPS Margaret Thatcher Conference on Britain and America – May/June 2019	Public
Report of: Director of Communications	For Decision
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Summary

The Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) is a leading think tank whose goal is to promote coherent and practical public policy to facilitate a more streamlined state, while countering threats to the UK's sovereignty.

The CPS is hosting the Margaret Thatcher Conference on Britain and America in London in May/June 2019. The half-day event will bring together a number of senior politicians, businesspeople and experts for a series of set-piece speeches, high-level panel discussions, a reception and a dinner.

The 2019 conference will focus on Britain and America's vital yet complex relationship. The aim is to examine its current state, forty years on from the beginning of the Thatcher and Reagan era, and asking what can be done to strengthen it in these very different times. The conference will explore the economic and diplomatic relationship between these two countries.

The proposal is to sponsor this event, as we have in 2017 and in 2016. We would seek a total of £20,000 to cover the room hire in Guildhall.

Sponsorship of the event will provide the City Corporation with a speaking slot, a high-profile hosting opportunity and exposure. This will also be an occasion for the City Corporation to work with leading international thinkers from both the UK and United States.

Recommendation(s)

That the City of London Corporation supports the CPS Margaret Thatcher Conference on Britain and America in May/June 2019 at a cost of £20,000 funded from your Committee's 2019/20 Policy Initiatives Fund, categorised under "Events" and charged to City's Cash.

Main Report

Background

1. The CPS has particularly strong, historical links to the Conservative Party. It was founded by Sir Keith Joseph and Margaret Thatcher in 1974 to champion economic liberalism in Britain. CPS's chair is Lord Saatchi, and its director is Robert Colvile. The City Corporation has worked with CPS since 2008. A number of successful events and research pieces have come out of this partnership.

2. Recent collaborations include: co-hosting both a panel discussion and a roundtable at Conservative Party Conference in October 2018 (notable speakers included City Minister John Glen MP, Bim Afolami MP and Claire Perry MP); sponsorship of the Margaret Thatcher Conference on China in 2018 (speakers included Lord Saatchi, Chairman of Centre for Policy Studies and Mark Tucker, Chairman of HSBC); a keynote lecture with the former Chancellor George Osborne MP in 2016 and with the former Mayor of London Boris Johnson in 2013. Guildhall hosted the very first CPS conference on liberty in June 2014 and worked with CPS on a fringe meeting at the 2015 Conservative Party Conference featuring Harriet Baldwin and Roger Bootle.
3. The topic of next year's conference is particularly relevant given that the Chair of Policy & Resources Committee visits the USA biannually. She is also Chair of the *US-UK Financial and Related Professional Services Coalition*, which is a collaborative effort between US-UK financial services to engage with both governments on bilateral trade and regulatory issues.

Proposals

4. The CPS is hosting its fourth *Margaret Thatcher Conference on Britain and America* in London in May/June 2019. The half day conference will bring together a number of world-renowned figures for a series of set-piece speeches and high-level panel discussions. It will conclude with a dinner for sponsors, speakers and key guests.
5. The conference will focus on the current relationship between Britain and America, forty years on from the beginning of the Thatcher and Reagan era, and seek ways to strengthen the economic and diplomatic relationship within the context of today's politics. Both the 2016 and 2017 conferences sponsored by the City Corporation were very successful and enjoyed a worldwide impact.
6. The work of the CPS and this conference accord well with the role of the City Corporation in strengthening commercial and political ties between Britain and the United States, particularly given that both the Chair of Policy & Resources Committee and the Lord Mayor have visited the US in 2018. the conference will also attract a high-level audience of politicians, diplomats and MPs from the UK, America and beyond, as well as attracting significant media coverage.

Implications

7. It is proposed that the required funding of £20,000 is drawn from your Committee's 2019/20 Policy Initiatives Fund categorised under 'Events' and charged to City's Cash. The current uncommitted balance in the 2019/20 is £665,865 prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

Conclusion

8. The proposed sponsorship of the CPS US-UK Conference accords well with the role the City Corporation plays in in promoting debate on key policy issues that affect the City and London as a whole.

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