

Committee:	Date:
Policy and Resources Committee	14 March 2019
Subject: Franco-British Young Leaders' Programme - Gala Dinner 2019	Public
Report of: Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	For Decision
Report author: Meghan Green, Corporate Affairs Officer	

Summary

This report proposes that the City of London Corporation sponsors the Franco-British Council's Young Leaders' Programme gala dinner in 2019.

The Franco-British Council (FBC) is an independent non-governmental organisation with charitable status. It was formed to promote better understanding between the United Kingdom (UK) and France and to facilitate a constructive dialogue through meetings of leading representatives in the fields of culture, science, education, politics and business.

The Council enjoys bilateral governance with members and trustees in both countries; it receives funding from both British and French governments and its high-level partners. Some of its partners include: EDF, London Stock Exchange Group, Ministry of Defence, Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the French Embassy.

The FBC's Young Leaders' Programme aims to bring together distinguished opinion-formers aged between 30 and 40 from a range of sectors to further Franco-British bilateral relations. The programme has been running annually since 2017 and has built up a large alumni network.

Given the current geopolitical context and Brexit discussions, the Young Leaders' programme has a heightened importance with strong ties between both nations considered even more vital.

The FBC is looking to hold its annual gala dinner in June 2019 in Guildhall as it did in 2017. The City Corporation would provide the venue and associated hire costs and catering in return for appropriate branding opportunities and to give a welcome speech at the dinner.

Recommendation

Members are asked to approve the City Corporation's sponsorship of the Franco-British Council's Young Leaders' Programme gala dinner for 2018-2019 at a cost of £20,000, to be met from your Committee's 2018/19 Policy Initiatives Fund, charged to City's Cash.

Main Report

Background

1. The Franco-British Council was created on the joint initiative of President Georges Pompidou and Prime Minister Edward Heath when Britain joined the European Community. Its setting up was formally announced in a communiqué issued in May 1972 at the end of the State visit by the Queen to France.
2. The FBC is an independent non-governmental organisation with charitable status. It was formed to promote better understanding between the UK and France and to facilitate a constructive dialogue through meetings of leading representatives in the fields of culture, science, education, politics and business.
3. It enjoys bilateral governance with members and trustees in both countries. It receives funding from the British and French governments and its high-level partners, including: EDF, London Stock Exchange Group, Ministry of Defence, Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the French Embassy.
4. The seminars bring together leading professionals who are encouraged to develop bilateral networks. The FBC also publishes reports of the meetings, for the benefit of both of the participants themselves and of policy-makers in the two countries.
5. In March 2016, the UK Prime Minister David Cameron and President Hollande announced the launch of the Franco-British Young Leaders' Programme. This initiative aims to invest in Franco-British relationships by increasing mutual understanding from influential opinion-makers across sectors to secure and further Franco-British bilateral relations. The FBC's Young Leaders' Programme brings together opinion-formers aged between 30 and 40 from both sides of the Channel and across sectors. The programme has been running annually since 2017 and has built up a large alumni network.
6. Examples of former Young Leaders include: Clément Beaune, Europe and G20 adviser to Emmanuel Macron; Faisal Islam, Political Editor, Sky News; Bim Afolami, Member of Parliament; Wes Streeting, Member of Parliament and Alexandre Holroyd, Député, French National Assembly and Henry Newman, Director of Open Europe.
7. Given the wider geopolitical climate and the future UK exit from the EU, the FBC has a heightened importance with strong ties between both nations ever more vital.
8. The programme takes place every other year in the UK or in France. The City Corporation first hosted the Council's gala dinner at Guildhall in 2017 and we have been approached again to hold it in 2019.
9. The FBC holds its programme in the UK/France on alternating years: the City Corporation first hosted the Council's gala dinner at Guildhall in 2017 and wishes to hold this again in 2019.

Current Position

10. Each year, a group of emerging leaders from government, business, media, military, culture and civic society are identified through a careful selection process. Those selected to join the Leaders' programme debate a topical area of public policy and are received by leaders from the highest echelons of government in France and the UK.
11. Because the Council enjoys such high-level connections, the young leaders were invited to attend a VIP reception during the 2018 UK-France Summit and were received by President Macron at the Palais de l'Elysée during the 2018 Paris Seminar.
12. In October 2017, the then Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson met with the young leaders at the British Embassy in Paris.
13. Running in parallel to this is the Local Leaders' programme, which is an initiative dedicated to supporting social mobility for young people in both countries. Those on the Young Leaders' programme act as their mentors.

Proposals

14. The proposal is to support the Franco-British Council's Young Leaders' Programme through hosting the gala dinner in Guildhall in June for approximately 100 high level guests. The City Corporation would also invite a number of guests to the dinner.
15. The Policy Chair will provide opening remarks and be seated at the dinner. Additionally, and a high-level speaker will address the dinner.
16. A key benefit of the City's engagement would be the opportunity to build up ongoing relations with France's future political and business leaders.
17. The hosting of this dinner aligns well with our key corporate policy priority of supporting and promoting the City's financial services sector, which is particularly important given that the dinner will be held post-Brexit.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

18. In hosting the Gala dinner, the City Corporation would demonstrate its commitment furthering the Anglo-French dialogue.
19. The City Corporation would receive branding opportunities, a speaking slot at the dinner and recognition of its sponsorship of the Programme.

Implications

20. The required funding cannot be met by the local risk budget due to the fact that it was unforeseen, and thus the funds are unavailable.
21. 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 available within your

Committee's Policy Initiatives Fund 2019/20 amounts to £523,000 prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

Conclusion

22. The Policy and Resources Committee is therefore recommended to approve £20,000 for sponsorship of the Franco-British Young Leaders Programme gala dinner.

Appendices

None.

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