

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Policy and Resources Committee	11 April 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Request for finance: 2019 Party Conferences	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Jan Gokcen, Corporate Affairs Officer	

### Summary

Every year the City of London Corporation delivers a programme of strategic political engagement at political party conferences.

This report presents Members with the proposed programme of City Corporation activities at 2019 Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative party conferences respectively. This report also asks Members to approve funding for the think tank partnerships crucial to delivering the City Corporation's party conference programme, the total sum being **£41,000**.

### Recommendation

Members of the Policy and Resources Committee are asked to:

- agree the City Corporation's proposed programme of activity at 2019 party conferences;
- agree to provide funding for the City Corporation's partnerships, the total sum amounting to £41,000 from your Committees 2019/20 Policy Initiative Fund categorised under 'Events' and charged to City's Cash, with the four think tanks listed below at Liberal Democrat, Labour, and Conservative party conferences:
  - i) Social Market Foundation
  - ii) The Institute for Public Policy Research
  - iii) Centre for Policy Studies
  - iv) Policy Exchange
- agree to visit the question of providing funding for partnership(s) at the 2019 Scottish National Party conference once details concerning the date, location and venue of the conference have been released.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. To ensure that opportunities for strategic engagement at respective party conferences are maximised, officers have negotiated partnerships with prominent think tanks. These partnerships will help secure senior figures of industry and government – at local, regional and national levels – at City Corporation events at Liberal Democrat, Labour, and Conservative party

conferences respectively, while simultaneously ensuring that City Corporation events are enhanced by the expertise of the respective think-tanks.

2. In 2018, the City Corporation attended the Scottish National Party conference, while in 2017 and 2016 the City Corporation also hosted events at the Scottish National Party conference. The details of the Scottish National Party conference have not been released: City Corporation's activities for this conference are therefore yet to be arranged.
3. The City Corporation's think tank partner for a private roundtable at the Liberal Democrat party conference is the Social Market Foundation.
4. The City Corporation's proposed think tank partner for a private roundtable at the Labour party conference is the Institute for Public Policy Research.
5. The City Corporation's proposed think tank partners for a private roundtable and open fringe event at the Conservative party conference are Centre for Policy Studies and Policy Exchange respectively.
6. In addition, the City Corporation is exploring the opportunity to partner with UK Finance, a trade association, for the private dinners at both the Labour and Conservative party conferences. UK Finance represents approximately 300 of the leading firms providing finance, banking, markets and payments-related services in or from the UK. Members of UK Finance vary in size, are located throughout the United Kingdom and operate across a range of areas, providing UK Finance with an extensive network and wealth of expertise in an area of prime importance to the City Corporation.

### **Funding Request**

7. The following section outlines the amount of funding necessary for each of the respective think tank partnerships:

#### ***2019 Liberal Democrat Party Conference, 14-17 September 2018, Bournemouth:***

##### Private Roundtable event – Monday 16 September

Theme: *'The Future of Financial Services Regulation'*

Think Tank Partner: Social Market Foundation

Cost: £9,646 + VAT

##### Dinner – Monday 16 September

Venue: The Hilton Bournemouth

#### ***2019 Labour Party Conference, 22-25 September, Brighton:***

##### Private Roundtable event – Monday 24 September

Theme: *'Achieving Sustainable Growth Throughout the UK'*

Think Tank Partner: The Institute for Public Policy Research

Cost: £8,000 + VAT

Dinner – Monday 23 September

Venue: (TBC) The Brighton Harbour and Spa Hotel

Partner: (TBC) UK Finance

***2019 Conservative Party Conference, 29 September – 02 October, Manchester:***

Private Roundtable event - Monday 31 September

Theme: *'Global Britain: The role of the UK Financial Services'*

Think Tank Partner: Centre for Policy Studies (CPS)

Cost: £8,000+ VAT

Open Fringe – Monday 31 September

Theme: *Law and Commerce*

Think Tank Partner: Policy Exchange

Cost: £15,000 + VAT

Dinner – Monday 31 September

Venue: Manchester Art Gallery

Partner: UK Finance

Accommodation: Hilton Deansgate Hotel

***2019 Scottish National Party Conference, dates and locations TBA, activity TBC***

**Corporate & Strategic Implications**

11. Proactive engagement and focused relationship-building in partnership with think tanks at 2019 party conferences will enhance our visibility, enable us to contribute effectively to policy debates, and maximise opportunities for wider strategic engagement on matters of prime importance to the City Corporation's various policy interests and initiatives.

**Financial Implications**

12. It is proposed that the required funding of £41,000 is drawn from your Committee's 2019/20 Policy Initiatives Fund, categorised under the 'Events' and charged to City's Cash. The current uncommitted balance available within the 2019/20 Policy Initiatives Fund amounts to £583,883 prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

**Conclusion**

13. Partnering with the four listed think tanks at 2019 party conference season will strengthen the City Corporation's political engagement programme, facilitate effective contributions to public policy debates, and maximise opportunities for strategic engagement.

**Jan Gokcen**

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