

Committee(s)	Date:
Policy and Resources	6 June 2019
Subject: Sponsorship of the IPPR Commission on Environmental Justice	Public
Report of: Director of Communications	For Decision
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Summary

The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), founded in 1998, is a registered charity and independent think-tank. The IPPR engages with the public, opinion formers, and policymakers and politicians from across the political spectrum.

In April 2019, the IPPR launched the Environmental Justice Commission (EJC), an ambitious two-year programme aimed at setting out a series of policies to establish an environmentally sustainable UK economy. Its key objectives include demonstrating the wider benefits of a sustainable economy through the creation of green jobs and equitable prosperity; looking at ways to achieve a 'Just Transition' to a net zero carbon emission economy; providing the UK with a platform to show leadership on climate change and 'Just Transition' ahead of the next United Nations' Conference of the Parties (COP26) on Climate Change in 2020.

It is proposed that the City Corporation becomes a sponsor of the EJC.

Sponsorship of the EJC would cost £40,000 for the first year. After an evaluation of the EJC's first-year performance, a request for an additional £40,000 in funding will be made in the next financial year, subject to a satisfactory performance and demonstration of added value to the City Corporation.

Sponsorship of the EJC will enable the City Corporation to make a substantive contribution to the debate on how climate change is best tackled. It will build on other initiatives such as the Green Finance Initiative and the Green Finance Institute. Furthermore, it will develop and enhance the City Corporation's workstreams on tackling climate change, at local, national and international levels.

Recommendation(s)

This Committee is asked to approve £40,000 from your Committee's Policy Initiatives Fund, categorised under 'Promoting the City' and charged to 'City's Cash', to sponsor the first year (2019/20) of the IPPR's Environmental Justice Commission (EJC). Should the EJC demonstrate added value in its first year, this Committee will be asked to sponsor the second year of the EJC (2020/21) in April 2020.

Main Report

Background

1. The City Corporation has been a corporate sponsor of the IPPR since 2008. In addition, the City Corporation has worked with the IPPR on several high-quality individual research pieces and events.
2. In June 2016, this Policy and Resources Committee approved a proposal, put forward by the Corporate Affairs team, to fund the IPPR's Commission on Economic Justice, which examined the challenges facing the UK economy and produced recommendations for substantial economic reform. The report was well received. Most notably, John McDonnell MP, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, described the Commission on Economic Justice as a 'Beveridge Report for the 21st Century'.

Proposals

3. The proposal is to sponsor the IPPR's Environmental Justice Commission (EJC) as a 'Research Partner', costing £40,000 per year for two years. Should this proposal be approved, this Committee will decide on funding the second year of the EJC, subject to the EJC demonstrating value added in its first year.
4. Sponsorship of the EJC will secure a place for a City Corporation representative on the Commission, contribute to the Commission's research, and therefore visibly involve the City Corporation in the debate concerning the achievement of a net zero carbon emission economy. In addition, the City Corporation will be recognised in thematic reports and receive invitations to related events.
5. The EJC will focus its research on the 'economic and social systems [that] contribute to climate change and wider environmental breakdown'. Specifically, the EJC will provide recommendations for a 'Just Transition' to a net zero carbon emission economy – that is, a transition to an environmentally sustainable economy that secures the future livelihoods of workers and their communities.
6. In its bid to create 'an ambitious programme of reform, capable of tackling the dual problems of climate change and wider economic and social justice', the EJC has set the following objectives to:
 - a. 'Set out the bold policy action required to green our economy and to ensure that the UK makes a fair contribution to tackling climate change and wider environmental breakdown';
 - b. 'Demonstrate how bold action can provide enormous benefits for communities, through the creation of green jobs, spreading prosperity and ensuring a Just Transition in the UK';
 - c. 'Help build the public and political support required to deliver this ambitious programme of reform';
 - d. 'Provide the UK with a platform to demonstrate real leadership on the issues of climate change and Just Transition ready for the next Conference of the Parties (COP26) in 2020.'

7. The EJC will be co-chaired by cross-party figures from Labour, Conservative and Green parties. The Commission will also feature leading figures from business, academia, civil society, trade unions, local communities and the wider environmental movement. Moreover, the Commission will be supported by an 'Expert Advisory Panel', which will be comprised of experts and activists.
8. Enlisted Commissioners include Ed Miliband MP, former Leader of the Labour party, Caroline Lucas MP, Green Party MP for Brighton Pavilion, Laura Sandys, Conservative MP between 2010-15, and Angela Francis, Chief Economic Advisor, WWF UK.
9. There will be six key features of the Commission's operation: engagement with key experts and policymakers; in-depth qualitative research; in-depth quantitative research; organisation of 'Citizens Juries'; generation of wider support; and talent-nurturing for young people. The EJC will therefore position its recommendations on people, policy and politics.
10. Looking at sectors such as power, transport, and industry, the EJC will comprise three stages. First, the EJC will provide an Inception Report, which will define the scale of the challenges, an analysis of its impacts, and a breakdown of its initial findings. Second, thematic and sectoral reports will follow on topics such as governance, finance and business, trade, and green jobs and industrial strategy. These reports will examine the status, mitigation, options and policy opportunities for each theme and/or sector. Third, the EJC will produce its final report, which will draw the findings together to provide a comprehensive list of recommendations on how a Green Economy can be best achieved.
11. The EJC will operate on a two-year basis. The Inception Report will be launched in October 2019; the theme-based papers will be released by June 2020; while the final report will be delivered by June or July 2021. Throughout this period, Commissioners will take part in theme-based roundtables and meetings, partnership meetings with EJC stakeholders, and meetings exclusively comprising EJC Commissioners. Moreover, the launch of the final report will be accompanied by a national conference on the 'Green New Deal'.

Implications

12. It is proposed that the required funding of £40,000 is drawn from your Committees 2019/20 Policy Initiatives Fund, categorised under 'Promoting the City' and charged to *City's Cash*. The current uncommitted balance in the 2019/20 Fund is £582,883. Prior to any allowance being, the sum available in the Fund is £582,883.

Conclusion

13. The proposed sponsorship of the IPPR's Environmental Justice Commission accords well with the City Corporation's workstreams and initiatives concerning environmental sustainability; sponsorship will therefore enhance the City Corporation's contribution to a public debate of critical importance and growing primacy on the political landscape.

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