

Committee(s): Policy and Resources Committee	Dated: 04 July 2019
Subject: Sponsorship of research and events programme: ' <i>Looking Ahead: UK Engagement and Influence After Brexit.</i> '	Public
Report of: Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	For Decision
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Summary

The City of London Corporation approached the Institute for Government (IfG), a non-partisan think-tank, to cooperate on a research project on future cooperation between the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU).

This research project, '*Looking Ahead: UK Engagement and Influence After Brexit,*' will look at how the UK can engage and influence the EU after Brexit.

The work will include the organisation of two private roundtables, the first hosted at Guildhall, London, and the second hosted in Brussels in collaboration with the City Corporation's Brussels office.

The contents of these roundtable discussions will inform the research project, which the IfG aims to launch on 31st October 2019, the date currently set for the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

Support for the IfG's research project will cost £25,000.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Approve sponsorship of the Institute for Government's (IfG) research project, '*Looking Ahead: UK Engagement and Influence After Brexit*', the total cost being £25,000, from your Committee's 2019/20 Policy Initiatives Fund, categorised under 'Research' and charged to City's Cash.

Main Report

Background

1. The Institute for Government (IfG) is an independent cross-party charity working to increase government effectiveness. Its main objectives are the advancement of education in the art and science of government in the UK for the benefit of the public and the promotion of efficient public administration of government and public service.
2. The City Corporation has previously partnered with the IfG on four successful series of events – "Government and Business" in 2013, "Government and

Economy” in 2014, “Government and Regulators” in 2015 and a series of roundtables on Financial services in 2017.

3. These included a range of high-level participants and offered examples of best practice in business and economic policymaking.

Proposal

4. The City of London Corporation approached the Institute for Government (IfG) to cooperate on a research project concerning future cooperation between the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU).
5. This research project, *‘Looking Ahead: UK Engagement and Influence After Brexit,’* will look at how the UK (as a whole) can engage and influence the EU after Brexit (assuming the UK does leave).
6. The City Corporation’s involvement in this research project will include co-hosting two roundtables focused on Financial and Professional Services, the first held in Guildhall, London, and the second held in Brussels. Both roundtables will convene senior representatives from government, public and private sectors, academia and society.
7. These roundtable discussions will explore how Government and Business can continue to work both in and with the EU. Participants will also be asked their views on the practical measures required to secure positive and productive UK-EU relations post-Brexit.
8. The roundtables will provide stakeholders with a platform to feed their expertise and experiences of negotiating in Brussels, both before and after the UK’s 2016 referendum on membership of the EU.
9. Three key areas will be looked at: financial services and professional services, security cooperation and energy. The City Corporation’s involvement will be specific to financial and professional services.
10. In partnership with the IfG, we will organise the following:
 - a. **September 2019:** a roundtable discussion with business and government representatives held at the City of London Corporation’s premises exploring how the UK Government and Business are preparing for life outside of the EU;
 - b. **September 2019:** a roundtable in Brussels to test the main findings of our report, with support from the City of London Corporation’s operation in Brussels;
 - c. **October 2019:** a high-profile launch event, featuring Catherine McGuinness as a panellist, to be held at the Institute for Government’s venue at 2 Carlton Gardens.
11. As a sponsor, the City Corporation will benefit from:
 - a. Acknowledgements of CoLC support in the report;

- b. Co-branding at the launch event and roundtable discussions;
- c. The opportunity to field a panellist at the launch event;
- d. IfG to convene a research roundtable at the City of London Corporation's venue with participation from CoLC;
- e. IfG to work in collaboration with City of London Corporation to host a roundtable discussion in Brussels to test out the research findings in a venue supplied by CoLC;
- f. Acknowledgment on invitations and briefing materials;
- g. Networking with senior civil servants and parliamentarians in the audience at launch event;
- h. Up to 10 guest suggestions for the launch event and up to 5 for each roundtable;
- i. Live tweeting and live streaming of the public launch event – CoLC as a named partner on the stage backdrop – visible in the live stream;
- j. The opportunity to use the video content for own communications activities.

12. The IfG will aim to publish this report before 31st October 2019, the date currently set for the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

Implications

13. It is proposed that the funding of £25,000 is drawn from your Committee's 2019/20 Policy Initiatives Fund, categorised under 'Research' and charged to City's Cash. The current uncommitted balance in the 2019/20 Fund is £579,748 prior to any allocation being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

Conclusion

14. Sponsorship of the IfG's research project, '*Looking Ahead: UK Engagement and Influence After Brexit*,' will allow the City Corporation to effectively contribute to the debate on future UK-EU relations post-Brexit, specific to financial and professional services. Sponsorship will therefore support and advance the City Corporation's strategic aim to 'support a thriving economy'.

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