

<b>Committee:</b> Policy and Resources	<b>Dated:</b> 04 July 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Sponsorship of Centre for European Reform's 2019 Ditchley Park Conference	<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

The Centre for European Reform (CER) is a leading think-tank that is devoted to making the European continent work better and strengthening its role in the world.

The proposal is for the City Corporation to sponsor the CER's annual Ditchley Park Conference, which is taking place on 15-16 November 2019. This year's conference, titled '*Five Challenges for Europe*', is an invitation-only gathering of senior economists, academics, and policymakers from the United States of America, Europe and the United Kingdom.

The CER is seeking £20,000 for sponsorship of the two-day event.

Sponsorship of this event will support the City Corporation's policy work and engagement strategy on current political and economic issues. It will also enable high-level engagement with senior policymakers and thought leaders on matters concerning the European continent.

On the previous occasions that this Committee approved sponsorship of the Ditchley Park Conference, funding was provided through the Policy Initiatives Fund. However, since the City Corporation has tended to approve sponsorship of the Ditchley Park Conference on an annual basis, Corporate Affairs will review the ongoing sponsorship of this event as part of the fundamental review.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to agree to provide £20,000 from your Committee's 2019/20 Policy Initiatives Fund, categorised under 'Events' and charged to 'City's Cash' to sponsor CER's 2019 Ditchley Park Conference.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The City Corporation has sponsored the Ditchley Park Conference since 2012.
2. On the previous occasions that this Committee approved sponsorship of the Ditchley Park Conference, funding was provided through the Policy Initiatives Fund.

3. Given the City Corporation's consistent support for the Ditchley Park Conference, Corporate Affairs suggests integrating funding of the Ditchley Park Conference into the fundamental review as of 2020/21 for annual review.

## **Current Position**

4. The City Corporation plays a leading role supporting and promoting the City's global business hub. The City Corporation therefore focuses on strategic economic development and high-level engagement, which involves convening discussions of key interest to our industry stakeholders.

## **Proposals**

5. The proposal is for the City Corporation to sponsor the CER's Ditchley Park Conference, which will take place on 15-16 November 2019 at Ditchley Park, Oxfordshire.
6. The 2019 Ditchley Park Conference will explore five key problems the CER believe Europe is facing:
  - a. International disputes between the United States and China;
  - b. Growing regional divergence between European Union Member States;
  - c. The political economy of climate change;
  - d. Economic downturns and structural issues within the eurozone;
  - e. Significant divergences in demographic changes throughout Europe.
7. The five problems will be explored via panel sessions specifically dedicated to each issue and held across two days.
8. So far, confirmed participants include Natacha Valla, Deputy Director General for Monetary Policy, European Central Bank; Claire Waysand, General Auditor at the Ministry of the Economy & Finance, France; Sylvie Goulard, Deputy Governor, Banque de France; Stephen King, Senior Economic Adviser, HSBC; and Oliver Blanchard, Professor of Economics Emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

## **Implications**

9. 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 Fund is £579,748 prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

## **Conclusion**

10. The proposed partnership with the CER accords well with the City Corporation's role in promoting debates on issues of pertinence to the City. Sponsorship of CER's 2019 Ditchley Park Conference will enable high-level interaction with key audiences in both the public and private sectors, supporting the City

Corporation's economic development and programme of engagement on key political and economic issues. Sponsorship of the 2019 Ditchley Park Conference therefore supports the City Corporation's corporate goals of modelling 'new ways of delivering inclusive and sustainable growth', influencing 'UK and global policy and regulation an international agreements to protect and grow the international economy', and supporting 'organisations in pioneering for and responding to changes in regulations, markets, products and ways of working.'

**Jan Gokcen**

Corporate Affairs Officer, Town Clerk's Department

T: 020 7332 3307

E: [jan.gokcen@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:jan.gokcen@cityoflondon.gov.uk)