

Committee(s):	Date:
Policy & Resources Committee – for decision	4 July 2019
Subject: Renewal of Strategic Partnership with the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council.	Public
Report of: The Remembrancer & Director of Innovation & Growth	For Decision
Report author: Duncan Richardson, Innovation & Growth	

Summary

This report went before your Committee in March 2019. It was advised that the recommendations had not been through the full internal consultation processes with the Chamberlain and was agreed that these procedures should be completed prior to any final decision being made. Members expressed support in principle for the proposals and agreed to delegate authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to approve the funding subject to satisfactory review by the Chamberlain. Having now passed through the necessary processes in time to make the July meeting, this report is being resubmitted directly to Committee rather than engaging the delegated authority.

The City of London Corporation's relationship with the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC) dates from 2014. The City of London Corporation retains 'Strategic Partner' status and provides office space for CWEIC in the Guildhall complex.

The City of London Corporation has partnered with CWEIC on a series of ad hoc initiatives over this period. CWEIC's has secured reaccreditation by the Commonwealth Secretariat as a baseline for future cooperation. This paper recommends that the Policy and Resources Committee extends the relationship, which includes provision of sought-after office space, for a period of two years. The City of London will use this period to reevaluate strategic long-term objectives for the CWEIC partnership.

Recommendation(s)

This report recommends funding of £20,000 per annum for two years to be met from your Committee's 2019/20 and 2020/21 Policy Initiatives Fund to support the following strands:

- Renewal of status as Strategic Partners of CWEIC (£10,000).
- The provision of office accommodation in the Guildhall complex (£10,000)

Main Report

Background

1. In June 2014, the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC), founded following CHOGM 1997 in Edinburgh, was put into liquidation. Both the Economic Development Office (EDO) and Mansion House had worked with the CBC in jointly staging events and liaising over Mayoral visits to Commonwealth countries.
2. In July 2014, Lord Marland established CWEIC in its place with the support of the Commonwealth Secretariat. CWEIC is a not-for-profit organisation and has focused on promoting business practices and governance, supporting SMEs to create trading opportunities in Commonwealth countries, encouraging sustainability with particular reference to island states, helping Commonwealth governments to find funding for major infrastructure programmes and advising Commonwealth governments on how to develop trade programmes throughout the Commonwealth and to attract inward investment. Many of these objectives, especially the promotion of trade and investment between Commonwealth countries, align with those of the City of London.
3. In April 2018, the City of London Corporation partnered with CWEIC and HM Government to design and co-host the Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) across City premises. This three-day conference included over forty thematic sessions which promoted the entire breadth of the City's offer as the Commonwealth Financial Centre. The CBF was recognised as a key pillar of CHOGM and welcomed one President, four Prime Ministers, around 40 ministers, and over 1,400 leaders from business, policy making, civil society and academia to the Guildhall.
4. CWEIC's new CEO, Alan Gemmell, took up post in December 2018.
5. In 2015, the Policy and Resources Committee agreed to provide funding for the provision of office accommodation for CWEIC within the Guildhall complex for a period of two years. This commitment was renewed in 2017. The Committee agreed that the provision of desk space – similar arrangements were also in place with other organisations such as the Global Law Summit – would facilitate a strategic partnership relationship between CWEIC and the City of London Corporation.

Proposal

6. Renewal of Strategic Partnership and office accommodation. It is proposed that the City of London Corporation renews its Strategic partnership with CWEIC at a cost of £10,000 pa on a two-year basis. It is also proposed that CWEIC's available desk space in the Guildhall Complex be renewed and that this accommodation arrangement be offered on a two-year basis with a contribution of £10,000 pa.

Conclusion

7. This paper recommends total funding requirement of £20,000 per annum for two years to be allocated from your Committee's Policy Initiatives Fund for 2019/20 and 2020/21, categorised under 'Promoting the City' and charged to City's Cash to extend the City of London Corporation's strategic partnership with CWEIC, and use this period to plan the right model for ongoing collaboration. Funds cannot be met from local budgets.
8. The current uncommitted balance in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Policy Initiatives Fund is £582,883 and £840,365 respectively prior to any allocation being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

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