

<b>Committee(s):</b> Policy & Resources Committee – For decision	<b>Date(s):</b> 17 October 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Nomination to the Board of the Impact Investing Institute	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director at Innovation and Growth	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Damian Nussbaum, Director at Innovation and Growth	

### Summary

On 2 May 2019, the Policy and Resources Committee gave approval for an investment of £600,000 into the Impact Investing Institute (the “Institute”) for the purposes of securing influence the establishment of the UK’s credentials in a fast-growing sector which encourages the increase in ESG, Impact and SDG allocations to flow through London and UK markets.

The Institute has received commitments for a total of £2.6m of funding over a three year period, from 2019-2022, from its cornerstone funders which include the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (“DCMS”), the Department for International Development (“DFID”) and the City of London Corporation (“COLC”).

A condition of investment was the ability of COLC to appoint one member of the Management Board for a term covering the active investment for the years 2019-2022.

### Recommendation(s)

- To approve that Nicholas Bensted-Smith is nominated as the COLC appointee to the III Board. This recommendation is based on Member Bensted-Smith’s experiences in asset management and as a member of the COLC’s Social Investment Board. This appointment would come into effect once the Management Board was formally constituted which is expected to take place on 1 November 2019.
- Members are asked to note that independent of the decision above, Sir Roger Gifford has been offered an additional seat on the Institute’s Board by its Chair, which he intends to accept with the committee’s acknowledgement. This offer will strengthen the strategic relationship between two COLC investees, the Institute and the Green Finance Institute (“GFI”), of which Sir Roger is the Board Chair.

## **Main Report**

### **Current position**

1. The objectives of the Impact Investment Institute include strengthening and developing the market for impact investing across all asset classes, increasing the amount of capital invested for impact, improving the effectiveness of capital invested for impact, and making it easier for individuals to invest for impact.
2. The Institute has now been incorporated and is in the process of preparing to launch. The first CEO, Sarah Gordon has been appointed and began her tenure on 3rd September 2019.
3. The COLC Innovation and Growth Team is now working with the CEO, the Funders and the Board and Advisory Chairs to chart the strategic and operational plan, and detailed programme of activities. This plan is scheduled for discussion and decision of approval at the first Board Meeting.

### **Proposals**

4. The Impact Investing Institute has been constituted as a Company Limited by Guarantee. The Board, chaired by Dame Elizabeth Corley, will be constituted by 1 November 2019 with size and terms to be determined.
5. It is expected that quarterly board meetings, briefings, reading and representation at engagements should require no more than an average of .5 days a month. There are no additional responsibilities of the Board beyond the standard fiduciary and governance requirements.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

6. Our close support of the Institute reflects our shift to ESG activity, the advancement of Impact and SDG allocations and our investment in the Institute will strengthen our contribution to the Corporate Plan aim to 'Support a thriving economy', specifically the outcome 'Businesses are trusted and socially and environmentally responsible'.

### **Conclusion**

7. The appointment of Member Bensted-Smith should signal strong support for the work of the Institute and its activities.

### **Damian Nussbaum**

Director, Innovation and Growth

T: 020 7332 3600

E: [damian.nussbaum@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:damian.nussbaum@cityoflondon.gov.uk)