

<b>Committee(s):</b> Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 19 February 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Party Conferences Report	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	<b>For Information</b>
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### Summary

The City of London Corporation delivers a programme of engagement at the annual Liberal Democrat, Labour, Conservative, Scottish National Party (SNP) and Green party conferences.

Members and officers attend these party conferences on behalf of the City Corporation, representing the organisation through attendance at City Corporation organised events, fringe events, bilateral meetings with political and business representatives and other networking opportunities.

This report provides the suggested format of events to take forward for the 2020 party conference season.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are asked:

- To **note** the suggested format of events for this year's Party Conference season.

### Main Report

#### Background

- The City of London Corporation attends annual political party conferences, including the Conservative, Green, Labour, Liberal Democrat and SNP party conferences.
- The City Corporation organises and sponsors both public and private events at Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative party conferences. The City Corporation has also intermittently hosted events at the SNP conference.
- The purpose of the City Corporation's activities at party conferences is to deliver a programme of strategic engagement on issues of importance to the organisation with relevant Ministers, politicians, policymakers and business figures.

- City Corporation activities are considered on a yearly basis to adapt to its own priorities and the current political environment. However traditionally the City Corporation organises:
  - a. An invitation-only roundtable in partnership with a think tank at the Conservative, Labour and the Liberal Democrat party conferences. This roundtable is chaired by the Policy Chair and two Members of PRED are invited to attend at the discretion of the Policy Chair.
  - b. An invitation-only dinner hosting between 50-120 people at Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat conference. The dinners bring together key local, regional and national political representatives, businesses, think tanks and academics. The Policy Chair gives a keynote speech as well as a political external guest.
  - c. An additional open fringe event in partnership with a think tank at the conference of the party in Government.

**Suggested proposals for party conference events in 2020, following the 2019 General Election results.**

In chronological order, it is proposed the 2020 party conference season follows the following format:

**Labour Party Conference, 20-23 September 2020, Liverpool:**

Proposal: To host a private roundtable in partnership with a think-tank, covering a policy area of relevance to the City Corporation. To host a sit-down dinner of approximately 65 attendees with a select and focused guest list from the business, political and policy related sectors. To explore partnership with UK Finance for the sit-down dinner, as was the case in 2018.

**Liberal Democrat Party Conference, 26-29 September 2020, Brighton:**

Proposal: To host a private roundtable in partnership with a think-tank, covering a policy area of relevance to the City Corporation. To host a sit-down dinner of approximately 45 attendees with a select and focused guest list from the business, political and policy related sectors.

**Conservative Party Conference, 4 - 7 October 2020, Birmingham:**

Proposal: To host a private roundtable in partnership with a think-tank, covering a policy area of relevance to the City Corporation. To host an open fringe event with a think tank, covering a policy area of relevance to the City Corporation. To host a sit-down dinner of approximately 120 attendees with a select and focused guest list from the business, political and policy related sectors. To explore partnership with UK Finance for the sit-down dinner, as was the case in 2018.

**Scottish National Party Conference, dates and location, TBC**

Proposal: To host a private roundtable in partnership with a think-tank and/or sectoral organisation, covering a policy area of relevance to the City Corporation. To explore partnership with TCUK, as was the case in 2018.

### **Green Party Conference, dates and location, TBC**

Proposal: To attend the Conference and not organise any events.

### **Conclusion**

Members are asked to note the above options and recommendations for the City of London Corporation's programme of engagement at the 2020 party conferences.