

<b>Committee(s):</b> Policy and Resources Committee – For information	<b>Date(s):</b> 19 November 2020
<b>Subject:</b> Census 2021	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1, 3, 4, 7
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	Yes
<b>If so, how much?</b>	£18,000
<b>What is the source of this funding?</b>	Policy & Resources Contingency Fund
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with by the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	Yes
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk & Chief Executive	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Emma Cunnington, Town Clerk’s Stuart O’Callaghan, Built Environment	

### Summary

This report provides an update on the census taking place on 21 March 2021 and the City of London Corporation’s involvement in supporting and promoting the decennial enumeration.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.
- Approve the cost of £18,000 in the financial year 2021/22 for payment to the GLA regarding the proposals for the 2021 Census Information Scheme to be met from the 2021/22 Policy and Resources Contingency Fund.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is overseeing the census (or decennial enumeration) in March 2021. This census provides the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales.
2. The census takes place every ten years. The first census was in 1801 and the latest took place in 2011.

3. The Census (England and Wales) Order, which sets the date of the census, was made (became law) at the May Privy Council on 20 May 2020 meeting following debates and votes in both Houses of Parliament in May.
4. The Census Regulations came into force on 23 June 2020 in England. The Regulations include many of the operational details of the census, as well as exact copies of the paper questionnaires and descriptions of the online questionnaires. They are available to view online: [Census \(England\) Regulations 2020](#).

### **Current Position**

5. The census provides an invaluable set of information for the City of London Corporation to inform policy issues relating to the resident population, workforce, and the profile of travel to work.
6. To aid effective enumeration and engagement of local communities, the ONS will appoint a Census Engagement Manager (CEM) to liaise with the London Borough of Hackney and the City Corporation. The CEM will work with the City Corporation and engage with community leaders to promote the benefit of the census and gain their support for it. They will develop a partnership working plan with the City Corporation that will contain details of agreed activities and support for the census operation.
7. Local authorities designate a Census Liaison Manager (in this case, Angela Roach – Assistant Town Clerk and Director of Member Services) and Assistant Census Liaison Manager (in this case, Stuart O’Callaghan, Built Environment) to lead on assisting in the enumeration through the partnership working plan.
8. Effective enumeration includes contribution from a range of City Corporation services, for identifying residential properties, promoting the census in the City, support for local communities, identifying hard-to-reach groups and providing support to complete the census through the online form.
9. For the Census 2021 unlike previous censuses, when each household was posted a printed census questionnaire, the 2021 Census will be predominantly online - householders will be contacted by letter that will contain a unique internet access code to an on-line form. People can use a variety of devices such as a PC, tablet or mobile phone. However, some households will continue to receive a paper questionnaire, but these too will include a unique access code to be able to make an internet response. Anyone that prefers to fill in a paper questionnaire will still be able to request one and be able to do so.
10. Detailed work for the City of London Corporation is likely to start in November 2020. At this point, an Officer Working Group will be established to include officers from Community and Children’s Services, Built Environment, Electoral Services, Planning, Chamberlain’s (Council Tax), Communications and Town Clerk’s.
11. A national address register for Census enumeration is being compiled for all residential properties. For the City of London all residential property data has now been entered into the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) which is cross-

referenced to relevant residential records in the Electoral Register and Council Tax data. This listing of all residential addresses in the City of London is fundamental to a successful Census. However, the use of further existing local knowledge on the likely occupiers will also help achieve a good response.

12. The data and associated analysis provide a corporate benefit for the City Corporation, as data is used by a range of services, including Community and Children' Services, Built Environment, Innovation and Growth and Chamberlains to inform policy and delivery plans. For previous Censuses, the City Corporation has analysed and published a range of Census profile reports for the whole of the City of London area and specific areas within the City, for example population areas based on residential estates such as the Barbican and Golden Lane, and for the workforce areas such as the Eastern Cluster.
13. Data from the Census of Population 2021 is expected to be published from the latter part of 2021/22.
14. To both access and analyse the data effectively, the Greater London Authority (GLA) has brought together the London Local Authorities and the GLA functional bodies in a consortium to acquire, analyse and disseminate information for the 2021 Census. This consortium builds upon the effective consortia that operated for the previous 2001 and 2011 Census. Key benefits for the City Corporation are the training, advocacy for London (e.g. response to government proposals for the Census), briefings on topics themes and data, ability to compare 2021 and 2011 data, historical data series, access to data user group, and ongoing technical and analytical support and advice.
15. The cost for each London Borough and other consortia members is £18,000 per member. This is set out in the proposals for the 2021 Census Information Scheme.
16. As the Census will provide data and analysis to inform service delivery across the City Corporation, it is recommended the cost of £18,000 in the financial year 2021/22 for payment to the GLA regarding the proposals for the 2021 Census Information Scheme is met from central Corporation funds, rather than departmental budgets.

### **Financial Implications**

17. It is proposed that the required funding of £18,000 is to be drawn from the Committee's 2021/22 Contingency Fund categorised and charged to City's Cash. The current uncommitted balance in the 2021/22 Contingency is £300,000 prior to any allowances being made for any other proposals on today's agenda

### **Conclusion**

18. This report summarises an update on the census in 2021 and provides information on how the City Corporation will be supporting the decennial enumeration, which is overseen by the Office of National Statistics.

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