

<b>Committee:</b> Policy and Resources	<b>Date:</b> 16 July 2015
<b>Subject:</b> King's College, London: sponsorship of the King's Commission on London	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk	<b>For Decision</b>

### Summary

The Policy Institute at King's, part of the Faculty of Social Science and Public Policy at King's College, London, plans to establish in Autumn 2015 a new strand of work, consisting of a two-year research project on the future challenges and issues facing London and their possible solutions, covering the economic, social, cultural and governmental aspects, and taking a longer term, 10-15 year perspective. The main planned outcome will be a single publication setting out the results of this work.

The project will be called the *King's Commission on London* and will be overseen by a commission, chaired by a senior public figure, together with one or two deputy chairs with a similar background, and a number of members drawn from King's College and other academic institutions with relevant expertise, and appropriate policy think tanks, business organisations and other bodies with an interest in these issues, as well as senior representatives of the main outside sponsors of the project. Following his retirement as Director of Public Relations on 31 October 2015, the Policy Institute at King's plans to appoint Tony Halmos as the part-time (2 days per week) director of the commission.

The City of London Corporation has been asked to be one of 4-6 core outside sponsors of the project. The total budget for the project is £500,000 (£250,000 per year) and initial sponsors are being asked to contribute £50,000 per year for each of the two years. The other sponsors are expected to be major corporate businesses in both financial services and other sectors of London's economy, with positive discussions already at an advanced stage in a number of cases. The City Corporation is asked to contribute £50,000 per year (in each of 2015/16 and 2016/17). This would be provided from the Committee's *Policy Initiatives Fund* for each of the two years respectively, and charged to *City's Cash*.

## Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to approve providing sponsorship to the *King's Commission on London*, at King's College London of £50,000 per annum for two years, funded from the *Policy Initiatives Funds* for 2015/16 and 2016/17 respectively, allocated to the *Research* section of the Fund in each year, and charged to *City's Cash*.

## Main Report

### Background

1. The Policy Institute at King's aims to link original research with rapid, relevant policy analysis in order to stimulate forward-looking debate and shape future policy agendas. The stated mission of the Policy Institute is to: "improve evidence-informed policy and practice by facilitating mutual engagement between academic, business and policy communities around current and future policy needs in the UK and globally".
2. Building on its central London location, the Policy Institute seeks to combine the academic excellence of King's College with the connectedness of think tanks and the professionalism of consultancies. In achieving its mission, the non-partisan Policy Institute aims to enhance King's capability and reputation for research excellence and be the catalyst for a global network of interactions with policymakers in governments, NGOs and commercial enterprises.
3. With these aims in mind, it plans to establish in Autumn 2015 a new strand of work, the *King's Commission on London*, consisting of a two-year research project on the future challenges and issues facing London and their possible solutions. It is intended to cover a wide range of policy areas, including the economic, social, cultural and governmental aspects and to examine these issues over a longer term, 10-15 year perspective. This will not preclude shorter term work as well, but the main aim will be to prepare in the two-years of the project a review of all the issues in the longer term.
4. Thus, for example, it will examine the likely shape of London's economy in the next decade and the prospects for each of its main elements. It will also look at what London will need by 2025-30 to ensure its continued success, not just economically but more widely. This will encompass issues such as health, environment, education, housing, transport and telecommunications, planning and property, and culture. It will also need to examine the

governance of London and its finances, though these will not be the key purpose of the work.

5. In order to undertake this work, relevant research will be commissioned both from specialist academics, not only within King's College, but other academic institutions, and from think tanks working in this area, especially those with a London-specific brief, such as the Centre for London and the new arm of Policy Exchange, Capital City Foundation. The aim will be to create as wide an input to the thinking of the Commission as possible and certainly to avoid duplication with work being undertaken elsewhere.
6. While the ultimate focus of the project will be the publication of a final comprehensive report on all the main issues, it is intended that, in each area, both the analysis and policy proposals will be discussed in suitable seminars, conferences and other events, as the work proceeds. This will assist in creating more productive and viable policy solutions and enable the project to develop a distinctive profile of its own as it proceeds, while also bringing into focus its collaborative nature, and the role and work of the various planned external participants.
7. The *King's Commission on London* will be overseen by a commission, chaired by a senior public figure, together with one or two deputy chairs with a similar background. It is envisaged that the other members of the commission will be drawn from academics within King's College who are carrying out work for the project, together with academics from other institutions who have been invited to assist in parts of the commission's work. It is also planned to invite policy think tanks who carry out work in the relevant areas, not necessarily confined to those specifically commissioned to contribute to this project, to appoint a member. In addition, each of the main outside sponsors of the project will be invited to appoint a member. Finally, London-wide business organisations and other bodies with an interest in these issues will also be invited to take part in this way.
8. Following his retirement as Director of Public Relations on 31 October 2015, the Policy Institute at King's plans to appoint Tony Halmos as the part-time (2 days per week) director of the commission. In addition, there will be a project manager, as well as support for administration, events management and communications from the Institute and King's College more widely.

## **Proposal**

9. The *King's Commission on London* is being established within the Policy Institute at King's and, although it will be provided with reasonable internal

resources from both the Institute and King's College more widely, it will also need to obtain external funding in order to carry out and complete its work. The total budget which the Institute is seeking externally is envisaged to be £500,000 (£250,000 per year). This is intended to cover the specific costs of commissioning research for the project both from King's College and other academic institutions and think tanks, as well the overall management of the *Commission*, including a director and project manager, and various events and other individual activities during the two-year period of the project.

10. The City of London Corporation has been asked to be one of 4-6 core outside sponsors of the project. Core sponsors are being asked to contribute £50,000 per year for each of the two years of the project. The other sponsors are expected to be major corporate businesses in both financial services and other sectors of London's economy, with positive discussions already at an advanced stage in a number of cases. The final detailed scope of the project will be sufficiently flexible to enable it to be adjusted, according to the level of funding eventually obtained.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

11. The work of the Commission closely aligns with the current strategic aims and objectives of the City Corporation, which has a detailed interest in many of the policy areas which it is planned that the Commission will cover. Becoming a core sponsor would align with the City of London Corporate Plan, 2015-18 and with the City of London Communications Strategy, 2015-18.
12. It is proposed that the required funding of £50,000 per year for the two years 2015/16 and 2016/17 is drawn from your *Policy Initiatives Funds* 2015/16 and 2016/17, categorised under the *Research* section of the Funds and charged to City's Cash. The current uncommitted balance available within your Committee's *Policy Initiatives Fund* 2015/16 amounts to £439,000 and for 2016/17 to £522,000, prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

### **Conclusion**

13. Becoming one of the core sponsors of this project would enable the City Corporation to play a useful role in shaping an area of work that will potentially be significant in the longer term policy formulation on issues of importance to London government and other policy opinion formers.

14. The Committee is therefore recommended to contribute £50,000 per year (in each of 2015/16 and 2016/17). This would be funded from the *Policy Initiatives Funds* for 2015/16 and 2016/17 respectively, allocated to the *Research* section of the Fund in each year, and charged to *City's Cash*.

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