

Committee: Policy and Resources	Date(s): 5 July 2012
Subject: Sponsorship of Migration Matters Trust	
Report of: Director of Public Relations	For Decision
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Summary</u></p> <p>The capacity to draw on the international pool of talented people, in a competitive global market is a necessary condition for the success of financial and business services in the UK.</p> <p>For over two years, the City Corporation has run a stakeholder consultation group drawn from City and related businesses and has engaged with Whitehall and Westminster on the need for a pragmatic approach to the immigration of skilled people.</p> <p>The Migration Matters Trust (MMT) will be a cross-party political campaign that seeks to intervene in the media debate on immigration, to highlight its positive impacts. MMT will provide the evidence-based case for migration, highlighting the real benefits of legal migration in Britain. The objective is to move the debate within the media, amongst political decision-makers and help the public make informed choices in judging the merits of immigration policies. The MMT will be chaired by the former Labour MP and Minister Barbara Roche and co-chaired by the Liberal Democrat Peer Lord Navnit Dholakia and Conservative MP Gavin Barwell MP.</p> <p>It is proposed that the City Corporation supports the Migration Matters Trust at a cost of £5,000 per year over two years (2012/13 and 2013/14). By supporting MMT the City Corporation will be affiliated with the work of the Trust, providing a vehicle to promote the principle that, within the broad framework of government policy, the maintenance and promotion of the UK's economic interests requires a pragmatic approach to the regulations governing the admission of skilled people. In addition, the Director of Public Relations has been asked to become a member of the MMT advisory board in order to provide communications advice.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>The Committee is recommended to that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City Corporation supports the Migration Matters Trust at a cost of £5,000 per year over two years drawn from the <i>Policy Initiatives Fund</i> for 2012/13 and 2013/14 respectively categorised under the <i>Promoting the City</i> and charged to <i>City's Cash</i>. • The Director of Public Relations joins the MMT advisory board in order to 	

provide communications advice.

Background

1. The City of London's status as a European and global centre for financial and related business services depends to a significant extent on the presence here of non-British owned institutions and on the engagement of City businesses in activity that may not have a significant domestic component.
2. This combination of foreign ownership and international activity brings with it the participation of large numbers of foreign nationals, contributing both technical and linguistic skills and cultural insight. The capacity to draw on this international pool of talented people, in a competitive global market, is a necessary condition for the success not only of financial and business services but other fields of importance to the UK economy, including information technology and medical research. In addition, the multi-national cosmopolitan nature of London makes it an attractive place to live and do business.
3. Both the current and the previous Government have made commitments to reducing net migration into the UK in view of the perceived potential for possible unfavourable social and economic impacts. The City of London Corporation and our business stakeholders fully acknowledge those policy commitments. However, the policies have been applied in ways which have made it more difficult than before to recruit and bring to Britain talented individuals who do not take jobs from the domestic workforce but often anchor and develop areas of business here.

For over two years, therefore, the City Corporation has run a stakeholder consultation group drawn from City and related businesses and has engaged with Whitehall and Westminster on the need for a pragmatic approach to the immigration of skilled people. A research study on the issue was published in Autumn 2011.

4. The Migration Matters Trust (MMT) will be a cross-party political campaign that seeks to intervene in the media debate on immigration, to highlight its positive impacts. This is in response to increased concern amongst the public and policy makers about immigration.
5. MMT will provide the evidence-based case for migration, highlighting the real benefits of legal migration in Britain. The objective is to move the debate within the media, amongst political decision-makers and help the public make informed choices in judging the merits of immigration policies. To achieve this they will:

- proactively make the evidence-based case for immigration so the issue is not discussed solely in a negative context
 - provide balance in the debate to anti-immigration pressure groups
 - focus on the continuing media debate to move the debate forward
6. The work of the Migration Matters Trust will complement that of other bodies in the debate, using the research output of organisations like the IPPR and Migration Observatory.
 7. The MMT will be led by a chair and two co-chairs drawn from the three main parties:
 - Chair: Barbara Roche – former Labour MP for Hornsey and Wood Green from 1992 to 2005. Barbara Roche served as a Minister across four government departments, including as Minister of State for Immigration and Asylum. She was also a Minister at the Treasury and the DTI.
 - Co-Chair: Lord Navnit Dholakia, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords and President of the Lib Dems between 1999 and 2002. Lord Dholakia has a long track record campaigning on race and equality issues and is currently chair of the National Association for the Care and Re-settlement of Offenders (NACRO)
 - Co-Chair: Gavin Barwell MP, Croydon Central. Gavin Barwell was elected to the Executive of the 1922 Committee which represents backbench Conservative MPs. He is Parliamentary Private Secretary to Greg Clark MP, Minister of State for Cities and Decentralisation.
 8. The MMT chairs will be part of an advisory board that brings together stakeholders from business and trade unions, providing a broad-based coalition of support. Representation from business and unions include Julia Onslow-Cole (Partner, PriceWaterhouseCoopers) and Greg Thomson (National Development Manager, Unison). It is planned to recruit additional business membership. The board will be advised and supported by a media team of PR professionals who have practical experience of leading and winning high profile campaigns. There will be two media experts, Simon Buckby (Managing Director, Champollion Communications) and Daniel Hodges (Daily Telegraph online columnist and freelance journalist) and one fundraising expert, Atul Hatwal.
 9. The Migration Matters Trust is seeking funding from a range of organisations within the public, private and voluntary sectors. Major funding has been provided by The Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust (totalling £26,800). Additional smaller contributions have been received from Champollion and Unison. Talks are also taking place with a number of major businesses including an international private equity group and a property group with a view to securing further funding.

Proposal

10. It is proposed that the City Corporation supports the Migration Matters Trust at a cost of £5,000 per year for two years (2012/13 and 2013/14). By supporting MMT the City Corporation will be affiliated with the work of the Trust, providing a vehicle to promote the principle that, within the broad framework of government policy, the maintenance and promotion of the UK's economic interests requires a pragmatic approach to the regulations governing the admission of skilled people.
11. In addition, the Director of Public Relations has been asked to become a member of the MMT advisory board outlined above in order to provide communications advice.

Financial and Risk Implications

12. It is proposed that the City Corporation supports the Migration Matters Trust at a cost of £5,000 per year for two years (2012/13 and 2013/14). There is no possibility of meeting the proposed financial support from existing local risk resources, because this proposal entails a substantial item of expenditure, for which no provision has been made in the Public Relations or other local risk budgets. It is proposed that the required funding of £5,000 is drawn from your *Policy Initiatives Fund* for 2012/13 and 2013/14 respectively, categorised under *Promoting the City* and charged to *City's Cash*.
13. The current uncommitted balance available within your Committee's *Policy Initiatives Fund* for 2012/13 amounts to some £132,000 and for 2013/14 £693,000, prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

Conclusion

14. By supporting the Migration Matters Trust the City Corporation will be affiliated with the work of the Trust, providing a vehicle to promote the principle that, within the broad framework of government policy, the maintenance and promotion of the UK's economic interests requires a pragmatic approach to the regulations governing the admission of skilled people.

Contacts:

Tony Halmos

Director of Public Relations

020 7332 1450

tony.halmos@cityoflondon.gov.uk