

Committee: Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee Policy and Resources	Date: 18 February 2016 18 February 2016
Subject: European Union Update	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report Author: Angela Roach, Town Clerk's Department	

Summary and Main Report

Prior to holding a referendum on whether or not the UK should stay in or leave the European Union (EU), HM Government is seeking a number of reforms to its membership of the EU. The reforms, or the "the deal" focuses principally on areas of competitiveness, the Eurozone, devolution and immigration/benefits.

Negotiations with the EU Council on the reforms are already underway and will come to a conclusion at the EU Summit in Brussels on 18 February 2016. In the event that a deal is concluded successfully and, in view of the impact of the referendum on the City Corporation's work, particularly in terms of supporting and promoting the City, the City Corporation will need to decide whether it should take a position on the referendum.

In anticipation of this, arrangements have been made to convene a special meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on **Thursday 25th February at 1pm** to discuss how the matter should be progressed. Any recommendation arising out of that discussion will then be forwarded to the Court of Common Council for it to consider on 3 March 2016.

It is anticipated that the agenda for the special meeting will comprise a joint report of officers on the European Union Referendum Act and a separate report of the Director of Economic Development which will provide information to enable the Policy and Resources Committee to make an informed decision and recommendation on the City Corporation's position on the referendum. Given the close proximity of Government's announcement and the dates of the Committee and the Court the Director's report will be the subject of a late circulation.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the arrangements currently in place for considering the Government's announcement on the outcome of the UK's negotiations with the EU Council and the date of the referendum.

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