

Committee: Policy & Resources Committee – For Decision	Dated: 14 th April 2016
Subject: Wilton Park's 2016 British-German Forum	Public
Report of: Director of Economic Development	For Decision
Report author: Corinna Williams, European Regulatory Affairs Officer	

Summary

This report seeks agreement from Members to provide funding of £15,000 from the Policy Initiatives Fund to sponsor Wilton Park's 2016 British-German Forum.

The British-German Forum facilitates both increased shared understanding and the building of strong relationships between influential young Britons and Germans. It is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2016. This provides the City of London with an opportunity to get across to an audience of future leaders the strength and importance of the City.

Recommendation: Members are asked to agree that the Committee sponsor Wilton Park's British-German Forum in 2016 in the sum of £15,000 and that funding be met from the Committee's 2016/17 Policy Initiatives Fund, categorised under Promoting the City and charged to City's Cash.

Main Report

1. The British-German Forum was established by Chancellor Kohl and Margaret Thatcher in 1985 to facilitate both increased shared understanding and the building of strong relationships between influential young Britons and Germans and has been an annual event ever since.
2. The Forum is a unique event held in the UK for future leaders from Germany and the UK. Participants are chosen from across the spectrum of business, government, finance, media, academia and non-governmental organisations. Those selected are considered opinion formers and tomorrow's leaders.
3. The professional mix, the speakers, rich and mind-broadening debate and networking both at the Forum and beyond are extremely stimulating and enriching for those who participate.
4. The 2016 Forum will take place 30 years since the first British-German Forum, and significantly in Wilton Park's 70th year.
5. The British-German Forum 2016 is scheduled to take place from Sunday 10th to Thursday 14th July 2016 and provides a dynamic space in which participants can network and share ideas among their peers and gain insight and inspiration from experienced professionals.

6. Part of the programme is a day away from Wiston House in London, during which usually participants visit Whitehall and the German Embassy. The London day falls on Tuesday July 12th in 2016. The proposal is that 45 participants from the British-German Forum 2016 cohort will participate in an afternoon at the Guildhall organised by the City of London.
7. Hosting the British-German Forum for an afternoon supports the City Corporation European engagement strategy, providing an opportunity for the City Corporation to underline its support for the City's continuing role as Europe's international financial centre.
8. It will also generate significant profile for the City Corporation and assist with its continuing relationship with senior City stakeholders based in the UK and in mainland Europe.
9. The City of London Corporation will also host a reception in the evening with 60 to 100 alumni, to bring together participants and alumni to enable them to network with one another from across the years enabling new and broader contacts; and engage with others from the City, particularly firms with German connections, about the role and value of the British-German Forum.
10. Your Committee is requested to provide funding of £15,000 from the 2016/17 Policy Initiatives Fund, categorised under Promoting the City and charged to City's Cash. The current uncommitted balance available within the Policy Initiatives Fund for 2016/17 amounts to £431,900 prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

Conclusion

11. Members are asked to decide if the Committee should provide funding of £15,000 from the Policy Initiatives Fund to sponsor Wilton Park's 2016 British-German Forum.

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