

<b>Committee:</b> Policy and Resources	<b>Date:</b> 14 April 2016
<b>Subject:</b> EU Referendum – Use of Livery Hall for Regional Count	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report Author:</b> Fern Aldous, Town Clerk's Department	

### **Summary**

This report proposes that the Electoral Commission be granted use of the Livery Hall on 23 and 24 June 2016, to serve as the venue for the London Regional Count for the EU referendum. Given the national significance of the event, it is proposed that the cost of the hire of the hall be covered by the City of London Corporation, with any additional costs met by the Electoral Commission.

### **Recommendations**

Members are recommended to approve the use of the Livery Hall as the Electoral Commission's regional centre for London for the EU referendum.

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

1. On 23 June 2016 a referendum will be held to determine Britain's membership of the European Union. The poll for the referendum will be conducted at 382 local centres around the UK and collated at 12 regional centres, with the final declaration and collation to be held in Manchester.
2. The City of London Corporation has been approached by the Regional Counting Officer for London with a request that the City of London Corporation host the regional centre for London.
3. The London region comprises the 32 local centres based in each London borough. As in previous elections and referenda, the votes cast within the City of London will be counted in Westminster.
4. The provision of the Livery Hall would be an opportunity for the City of London Corporation to provide a public service in line with its stated aim to support London and the nation.
5. Given the nature of the EU referendum and the public service motivation in the provision of the Livery Hall, it is proposed that the hire of the hall be met by the City of London Corporation. Additional costs, including security and hospitality, would be met by the Electoral Commission.

6. As per the directive of the Chief Counting Officer the count will commence at 10.00pm on the 23 June 2016. It is expected that the ballot will be concluded by 6:00am on the 24 June. The letting of the Livery Hall will therefore not impact upon Common Hall taking place at midday on the 24 June 2016.

## **Conclusion**

The use of a City Corporation venue for a nationally significant event would promote the Corporation's strategic role in supporting London and the nation and underline the City of London Corporation's continuing role in national life. It is therefore recommended that approval be granted.

### **Contact:**

Fern Aldous

Telephone: 020 7332 3801

Email: [fern.aldous@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:fern.aldous@cityoflondon.gov.uk)