

Committee(s)	Dated:
Policy & Resources – for decision	19 May 2016
Subject: Think tank memberships, 2016/17	Public
Report of: Director of Economic Development	For Decision
Report author: Peter Cannon, Corporate Affairs Officer	

Summary

The City of London Corporation is a corporate member of eight think tanks. Membership for 2016 has already been paid for six of these think tanks. Payment is now due for Chatham House and New Local Government Network. It is proposed that the City Corporation renew these two memberships for 2016/17, which will cost £25,750.

Officers in the Economic Development Office will review how the City Corporation works with think tanks and which corporate memberships are most relevant. Officers will come back to Members with proposals for the subscriptions for 2017/18 in due course.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Agree to renew the City of London Corporation's corporate membership of the two think tanks listed in this report at a total cost of £25,750, to be met from your Committee's Policy Initiatives Fund 2016/17, categorised under the Events section of the Fund and charged to *City's Cash*.
- Note that officers will review how the City Corporation engages with think tanks and will bring proposals to Members on future subscriptions in due course.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Corporation works with a range of think tanks from across the mainstream political spectrum to support its communications, events and policy research work. Officers aim to ensure that this work is appropriately politically balanced.

Current Position

2. A number of think tanks offer corporate membership schemes. These carry a number of benefits, including invitations for Members and officers to attend events, copies of all publications and receipt of policy briefings. Corporate

members are also in regular contact with senior staff at the think tanks to discuss the progress of relevant projects.

3. In 2015-16, the City Corporation was a member of eight think tanks – these are listed in Appendix A. Membership subscriptions for different think tanks are due at different times of the year. Membership fees for six think tanks have already been paid from the Policy Initiatives Fund 2015/16.
4. The membership subscriptions for 2016/17 are due for Chatham House and New Local Government Network. Membership of Chatham House enables City Corporation Members and officers to attend invitation-only events. Membership of the New Local Government Network helps the City Corporation to be an active participant in debates about the future of policies relating to local government.
5. On 19 October 2015, the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee agreed that the City Corporation's engagement with think tanks should be reviewed. The Sub-Committee agreed that existing engagement, the political context, policy themes and cost should be considered.
6. The Economic Development Office will review the City Corporation's engagement with and membership of think tanks before next year's membership subscriptions are due. Officers will then bring proposals to Members on future subscriptions.

Proposals

7. It is proposed that the City Corporation renew its membership of the following two think tanks for 2016/17 for a total cost of **£25,750**. (Chatham House – £13,750 and New Local Government Network – £12,000)

Corporate & Strategic Implications

8. Membership of think tanks helps the City Corporation meet Key Policy Priority 3 of its Corporate Plan, engaging with government on key issues of concern, by facilitating events, meetings and opportunities for policy discussion.

Financial Implications

9. It is proposed that the required funding of £25,750 is drawn from your Policy Initiatives Fund 2016/17 and categorised under the Events section of the Fund and charged to City's Cash. The current uncommitted balance available within your Committee's Policy Initiatives Fund 2016/17 amounts to £536,700 prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

Conclusion

10. Renewing these two think tanks memberships will help the City Corporation to engage with Government and policy-makers and to organise a wide range of policy-related events and research. Officers will review the City Corporation's future engagement with think tanks.

Appendix: List of think tank subscriptions that the City Corporation supports

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Appendix A

Renewal of City of London Corporation Think Tank Subscriptions 2016-17		
Think tank	Recent activities with CoL	Membership fee
<p>Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation (CSFI) A not-for-profit think tank, based in the City of London, which provides a forum for well-informed debate and research about the future of the financial services sector.</p>	<p>The City Corporation has been a Corporate sponsor since the 1990s and has worked with CSFI on an academic expert directory and a high level roundtable on HM Government's Balance of Competences Review.</p>	<p>£5000 (invoice due this financial year for 2017/18 membership)</p>
<p>Chatham House Home of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House is an independent international policy institute based in London.</p>	<p>The City Corporation has been a Corporate sponsor since 2009 and has worked with Chatham House on a major conference on financial regulation and a dinner with the UK's Permanent Representative. Senior City Corporation representatives have recently attended a series of Chatham House breakfasts on the EU referendum.</p>	<p>£13,750 (invoice received for 2016/17 membership)</p>
<p>European Policy Forum (EPF) Aims to improve the quality of policy ideas for the UK and the EU. It specialises in the financial, energy and telecomms sectors.</p>	<p>The City Corporation has been a Corporate Sponsor since 2006 and has worked with the EPF on a seminar on taxation, a roundtable with the Governor of the Bank of Finland and a dinner with Sergio Ermotti of UBS.</p>	<p>£7500 (invoice due this financial year for 2017 membership)</p>
<p>Foreign Policy Centre (FPC) A UK-based independent progressive foreign affairs think tank.</p>	<p>The City Corporation has been a Corporate sponsor since 2006 and has worked with the FPC on a conference on mobile banking and dinners with the Business Secretary, Shadow Foreign Secretary, Shadow Chancellor and Commercial Secretary to the Treasury.</p>	<p>£10,000 (invoice due this financial year for 2017 membership)</p>
<p>Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) A progressive think-tank,</p>	<p>The City Corporation has been a Corporate Sponsor since 2008 and has worked with IPPR on</p>	<p>£15,000 (invoice due this financial year</p>

<p>whose aim is to produce rigorous research and innovative policy ideas for a fair, democratic and sustainable world.</p>	<p>major research projects on globalisation and emissions and an events series on emerging markets. In 2015, the City Corporation worked with the IPPR to organise a roundtable discussion with businesses at the Scottish National Party conference.</p>	<p>for 2017/18 membership)</p>
<p>Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) LGIU is a think tank and local authority membership organisation that aims to strengthen local democracy by putting citizens in control of their own lives, communities and local services.</p>	<p>Membership of LGIU entitles a range of City Corporation Members and Officers to receive a regular series of news updates, briefings and reports.</p>	<p>£10,000 (invoice due this financial year for 2017 membership)</p>
<p>New Local Government Network (NLGN) An independent think tank and network of local authorities committed to promoting the decentralisation of power, public service reform, and enhancing local governance.</p>	<p>The City Corporation has been a Corporate Sponsor since 2003 and has worked with NLGN on major conferences on capital finance and local growth plus research projects on capital finance. Guildhall hosted the 2015 NLGN annual Conference.</p>	<p>£12,000 (invoice received for 2016/17 membership)</p>
<p>Reform A centre-right think tank promoting new directions for public policy based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, and individual liberty.</p>	<p>The City Corporation has been a Corporate Sponsor since 2008 and has worked with Reform on a series of events including dinners with the Minister for the Civil Society, the Culture Secretary, the Leader of the House of Lords and the Chairman of the 1922 Committee.</p>	<p>£9000 (invoice due this financial year for 2017 membership)</p>