

Committee: Policy and Resources Committee – for decision	Date: 16 June 2016
Subject: Sponsorship of events with the Centre for European Reform	Public
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Summary

The Centre for European Reform (CER) is a leading think-tank that is “devoted to making the European Union work better and strengthening its role in the world.” The City Corporation proposes to partner with the CER on two future high-level events.

The first proposal is to co-host a conference on 6 July in the aftermath of the referendum on Britain’s membership of the European Union. The event will bring together major European figures to explore key economic and political issues in the immediate aftermath of the referendum. It would be tailored to both a Leave and a Remain result. The CER would seek £15,000.

The second proposal is to sponsor the 2016 Ditchley Park Conference, taking place on 4-5 November. It is an invitation-only gathering of 40 economists and senior policy-makers. This year the Conference will address is the following topic: *‘Is Germany a source of economic stability?’* The CER is seeking £15,000.

Sponsorship of these two events will allow for high-level interaction with key City Corporation audiences and supports the City Corporation’s economic development programme and engagement on key political and economic issues.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to agree to provide £30,000 from the Policy Initiatives Fund 2016/17 categorised under ‘Events’ and charged to ‘City’s Cash’ to sponsor a post referendum Conference on 6 July and the 2016 Ditchley Park Conference, both events in partnership with CER.

Main Report

Background

1. The City Corporation has a long and successful relationship with the CER and has sponsored the annual Ditchley Park Conference since 2012.

Current Position

2. The City Corporation plays a leading role supporting and promoting the City's global status. In so doing, it focuses on strategic economic development and part of that includes convening discussions of key interest to our stakeholders.

Proposals

3. The proposal is for two high-level events to take place. The first event, on 6 July, aims to bring together leading figures to discuss the ramifications of the 23 June referendum result. The second, on 5-6 November, is the 2016 Ditchley Park Conference. It is an invitation-only gathering of 40 economists and senior policy-makers. This year the title is '*Is Germany a source of economic stability?*'
4. For the post referendum conference, senior figures across the economic, political and foreign policy field will be approached to take part in discussion sessions. The event will bring together a range of major figures to explore key economic and political issues in the wake of the referendum result.
5. A number of leading figures have been confirmed for the Ditchley Park Conference, including former Shadow Chancellor Ed Balls, Peter Bofinger from the German Council of Economic Experts, AXA chief economist Laurence Boone, Marcus Brunnermeier, economics professor at Princeton and Beatrice Weder di Mauro from the University of Mainz. There will be a maximum of four sponsors, with KPMG and MacroAdvisoryPartners likely candidates. Sponsorship guarantees the City Corporation two places at this very select event. The City Corporation would also receive branding on all conference-related materials.

Implications

6. It is proposed that the required funding of £30,000 is drawn from the Policy Initiatives Fund 2016/17 and categorised under Events and charged to *City's Cash*. The current uncommitted balance in the 2016/17 Fund is £510,900 prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

Conclusion

7. The proposed partnership with the CER accords well with the role the City Corporation plays in promoting debates on issues that affect the City. The 6 July event takes place very soon after the referendum. It would be tailored to both a Leave and a Remain result. Sponsorship of both events allows for high-level interaction with a number of the City Corporation's key audiences and supports the City Corporation's economic development and engagement programme with high level figures on key political and economic issues.

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