

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Policy & Resources – for decision	7 July 2016
<b>Subject:</b> Party conference activity, 2016	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Economic Development	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Peter Cannon, Corporate Affairs Officer	

### Summary

The City of London Corporation is planning to hold private roundtables and dinners at the 2016 party conferences of the Liberal Democrats (19<sup>th</sup> September), Labour (26<sup>th</sup> September) and the Conservatives (3<sup>rd</sup> October). This helps maintain productive relationships with politicians from across the main parties and facilitate critical policy debates. This year, the roundtables will focus on skills and employability.

The private roundtable events are being organised in conjunction with different think tanks.

- The event at the Liberal Democrat conference is being organised with Centre Forum, for a fee of £5,000.
- The event at the Labour conference is being organised with the Smith Institute, for a fee of £6,000.
- The event at the Conservative conference is being organised with Bright Blue, for a fee of £6,500.

The total amount to be paid to think tanks for these events is £17,500.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to agree to pay the cost of these three events from the Policy Initiatives Fund 2016/2017, for a total of £17,500.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. At the Public Relations & Economic Development Sub Committee meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016, the Sub Committee agreed that the City Corporation should organise invitation-only roundtable events and invitation-only dinners at the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative party conferences.
2. Each year, the City Corporation works with different think tanks at the party conferences in order to benefit from their experience, policy expertise and different political contacts, in order to ensure that events at party conferences are distinct and provide maximum benefit to the City Corporation.

## **Current Position**

3. The City Corporation is organising a roundtable event at the Liberal Democrat conference with Centre Forum on 19<sup>th</sup> September, on employability. Centre Forum has asked for a fee of £5,000, which covers organisation of the event.
4. The City Corporation is organising a roundtable event at the Labour conference with the Smith Institute on 26th September, on financial services and youth employment. The Smith Institute has asked for a fee of £6,000, which covers event organisation, room hire, catering and listing in the conference guide.
5. The City Corporation is organising a roundtable event at the Conservative conference with Bright Blue on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, on financial services and youth employment. Bright Blue has asked for a fee of £6,500, which covers event organisation, room hire, catering and listing in the conference guide.

## **Proposals**

6. It is proposed that the £17,500 cost of these three events be paid from the Policy Initiatives Fund 2016/2017.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

7. Holding events at party conferences helps the City Corporation meet Key Policy Priority 3 of its Corporate Plan, engaging with government on key issues of concern, by providing an opportunity to engage directly with a number of politicians from the main parties.

## **Financial Implications**

8. It is proposed that the required funding of £17,500 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 £480,900 prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

## **Conclusion**

9. The roundtable events at these three party conferences will be an opportunity for the City Corporation to engage with senior politicians on policy issues which are of interest to the City. Working with think tanks will help ensure these events involve a wide range of politicians and other stakeholders relevant to the policy area.

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