

Committee(s) Policy and Resources	Dated: 17 November 2016
Subject: Sponsorship of the Liberty Conference	Public
Report of: Director of Economic Development	For Decision
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Summary

The Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) is a leading centre-right think tank whose goal is to promote coherent and practical public policy to facilitate a more streamlined state, while countering threats to the UK's sovereignty.

The CPS is hosting the Margaret Thatcher Conference on Liberty in London on 27 June 2017. The one-day event will bring together a number of world-renowned figures for a series of set-piece speeches, high-level panel discussions, a reception and a dinner to discuss the role of liberty in the modern world.

Figures including Sir Michael Fallon, Professor Michael Clarke, Victor Orban, Sir John Howard and Professor Niall Ferguson have already indicated that they will participate in the event.

The proposal is to sponsor this event, as we did in 2014. We would seek a total of £20,000 to cover the room hire in Guildhall.

Sponsorship of the event will provide the City Corporation with a speaking slot, a high profile hosting opportunity and exposure. This will also be the occasion for the City Corporation to work with leading international thinkers.

Recommendation(s)

That the City of London Corporation supports the Margaret Thatcher Conference on Liberty in June 2017 at a cost of £20,000 funded from your Committee's Policy Initiatives Fund 2017/18, categorised under "Events" and charged to City's Cash.

Main Report

Background

1. The CPS has particularly strong, historical links to the Conservative Party. It was founded by Sir Keith Joseph and Margaret Thatcher in 1974 to champion economic liberalism in Britain. CPS's chair is Lord Saatchi, and its director is Tim Knox. The City Corporation has worked with CPS since 2008. A number of successful events and research pieces have come out of this partnership.

2. Recent collaborations include sponsorship of the Margaret Thatcher lectures delivered by the former Chancellor George Osborne MP in 2016 and the former Mayor of London Boris Johnson in 2013. Guildhall hosted the first CPS conference on liberty in June 2014 and worked with CPS on a fringe meeting at the 2015 Conservative Party Conference featuring Harriet Baldwin and Roger Bootle.

Proposals

3. The CPS is hosting its second *Margaret Thatcher Conference on Liberty* conference in London on 27 June 2017. The one-day conference will bring together a number of world-renowned figures for a series of set-piece speeches and high-level panel discussions. It will conclude with a dinner for sponsors, speakers and key guests.
4. Figures including Sir Michael Fallon, Professor Michael Clarke, Victor Orban, Sir John Howard, Professor Niall Ferguson and John O'Sullivan have indicated they will participate in the event.
5. Lead discussions will take place on the following themes: Challenges for Islam and across the Middle East, Russia and Europe, the US and Europe, International Law and Western Values, Policy options for the West.
6. The 2014 Liberty Conference sponsored by the City Corporation was very successful. Attended by over 700 influential delegates, it enjoyed a worldwide impact.
7. The work of the CPS and this conference accord well with the role of the City Corporation in promoting debate on key policy issues that affect the City and London as a whole. This event would reinforce and broaden the City Corporation's relationship with a range of key political, academic and business figures.

Implications

9. It is proposed that the required funding of £20,000 is drawn from the Policy Initiatives Fund and categorised under 'Events' and charged to *City's Cash*. The current uncommitted balance in the 2017/18 is £682,300 prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

Conclusion

10. The proposed sponsorship of the CPS Liberty Conference accords well with the role the City Corporation plays in promoting debate on key policy issues that affect the City and London as a whole.

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