

Committee(s)	Dated:
Policy and Resources Committee	15 December 2016
Subject: Request for funds – Franco-British Young Leaders’ Programme Gala Dinner 2017	Public
Report of: Damian Nussbaum, Director of Economic Development	For Decision
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Summary

This report proposes that the City of London Corporation sponsors the Franco-British Council’s Young Leaders’ dinner in 2017.

The Franco-British Council organises a programme of specialised meetings on a variety of subjects under the broad headings of environment, economic reform, social cohesion and culture. The seminars bring together leading professionals who are encouraged to develop bilateral networks.

The Council’s Young Leaders’ Programme is a new initiative aiming to invest in the Franco-British bilateral relationship to increase mutual understanding, by influencing opinion-makers aged between 30 and 40 from a range of sectors to secure and further Franco-British bilateral relations.

Each year, a group of emerging leaders from government, business, media, military, culture and civic society will be identified through a careful selection process in the two countries. Those selected will participate in two week-long residential seminars over two consecutive years – alternately in France and the UK. There they will debate a topical area of public policy and be received by leaders from the highest echelons of government and other sectors linked to the policy area under discussion.

The City Corporation would provide the venue and associated hire costs and catering in return for appropriate branding opportunities and to give a welcome speech at the inaugural gala dinner. The Corporation would also contribute to shaping the overall UK based programme.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- agree that the City of London Corporation provides the Guildhall as a dinner venue and cover catering costs for the event totalling not more than £17,000; these costs are to be met from the Committee’s *Policy Initiatives’ Fund* for 2017/18, categorised under the *Events* section of the *Fund* and charged to City’s Cash.

Main Report

Background

1. The Franco-British Council was created, on the joint initiative of President Georges Pompidou and Prime Minister Edward Heath, when Britain joined the European Community. Its setting up was formally announced in a communiqué issued in May 1972 at the end of the State visit by the Queen to France.
2. The Council organises a programme of specialised meetings on a variety of subjects under the broad headings of: environment, energy and sustainable development; economic reform in the context of European developments and globalisation; social cohesion and immigration; culture including the arts, heritage and new media.
3. The seminars bring together leading professionals who are encouraged to develop bilateral networks. The Council also publishes reports of the meetings, for the benefit both of the participants themselves and of policy makers in the two countries. Competitions exist to promote France and French to a younger age group.

Current Position

4. In March 2016, the UK Prime Minister David Cameron and President Hollande announced the launch of the Franco-British Young Leaders' Programme. This new initiative aims to invest in the Franco-British bilateral relationship to increase mutual understanding by influencing opinion-makers aged between 30 and 40 from a range of sectors to secure and further Franco-British bilateral relations.
5. Each year, a group of emerging leaders from government, business, media, military, culture and civic society will be identified through a careful selection process in the two countries. Those selected will participate in two week-long residential seminars over two consecutive years – alternately in France and the UK. There they will debate a topical area of public policy and be received by leaders from the highest echelons of government and other sectors linked to the policy area under discussion. Each Young Leader year group will be championed by a forward-thinking influential figure from each country. The long-lasting friendships and networks will be nurtured by various events and will enrich bilateral relations in years to come.
6. At the same time, a group of French and British disadvantaged 20-30 year olds who have demonstrated potential for future success will benefit for a unique international learning experience alternately in France and the UK. The first group would also act as mentors to the second.
7. The programme will be managed with the active support of the two governments and a select group of Founding Partners whose support will be linked to a range of benefits including participation in the selection of Young Leaders, commercial visibility, access to prominent French and UK policymakers, experts and business leaders, as well as to the Franco-British Council network, and invitations to high profile events.

Proposals

8. The City Corporation has been approached by the French Ambassador HE Sylvie Bermann to sponsor this Young Leaders' Programme, in the form of hosting the inaugural gala dinner. This support will take the form of venue hire at

Guildhall and catering for a reception and three course dinner for approximately 100 high level guests in June or September 2017.

9. The Corporation has also been asked to contribute to shaping the overall UK based programme.
10. A key benefit of the City's engagement would be the opportunity to build up ongoing relations with France's future political and business leaders, replicating the good links forged through the British German Forum (Wilton Park) and the British-American Project senior leaders programme with notable alumni such as David Miliband, Sadiq Khan, James Naughtie and Baroness Chakrabarti.
11. The hosting of this dinner aligns well with our key corporate policy priority of supporting and promoting the UK financial services based services sector throughout the world for the benefit of the wider UK economy as set out in the Corporate Plan 2015-19.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

12. By providing Guildhall as a venue for the event, the City Corporation would be a key supporter of the Young Leaders' Programme and also, its host. This will provide an opportunity to bring high level guests into the City and further demonstrate its commitment to furthering Anglo-French dialogue (already established through joint ownership of the Anglo-French Committee (with Paris Europlace).
13. The City Corporation would receive branding opportunities, a speaking slot at the dinner and recognition of its sponsorship of the Programme.

Implications

14. The current uncommitted balance available within your Committee's Policy Initiatives Fund for 2017/18 amounts to £662,300, prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

Conclusion

15. The Policy and Resources Committee is therefore recommended to approve £15,000 for sponsorship of the Franco-British Young Leaders Programme gala dinner.

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