

Committee(s)	Dated:
Policy and Resources Committee	15 December 2016
Subject: Sponsorship of a Brexit- related series convened by the Institute for Government	Public
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Summary

Between January and April 2017, the Institute for Government (IfG) will host a series of public events and roundtables, and publish briefing papers which shed light on key issues and provide advice to government and wider stakeholders.

The IfG is seeking £18,000 of funding from the City Corporation to be sole sponsor of this series. The City Corporation would host two private roundtables and the IfG would host the two keynote public events. In return for this sponsorship, the City Corporation would work closely with the IfG to devise the guest list for each event, the Policy Chairman would be able to play a prominent role in all of them and the City Corporation would benefit from branding opportunities. IfG will do write-ups of the public events and include them on their website, with reference to the partnership with the City Corporation.

Recommendation

This report recommends that your Committee agrees to sponsor a series of Brexit-related events in partnership with the IfG at a cost of £18,000 to be met from your Committee's Policy Initiatives Fund for 2016/17, categorised under Events and charged to *City's Cash*.

Main Report

Background

The Institute for Government (IfG) is an independent cross party charity working to increase government effectiveness. Its main objectives are the advancement of education in the art and science of government in the UK for the benefit of the public and the promotion of efficient public administration of government and public service.

1. The City Corporation has previously partnered with the IfG on three highly successful series of events – “Government and Business” in 2013, “Government and Economy” in 2014, and “Government and Regulators” in 2015.
2. They involved a range of high-level participants and offered examples of best practice in business and economic policy-making.

Proposal

3. The Brexit series of events aims to:
 - inform the public and political debate on key Brexit-related issues and see how business and government might need to address them;
 - foster dialogue between business, politicians, senior officials and academics on the government's role in contributing to economic success;
 - further develop the relationships between government and business.
4. Four events would take place between January and April 2017, with a degree of flexibility in the timeline and the suggested topics so as to respond to political changes and speaker opportunities, as they arise.
5. The two private roundtables would be held at Guildhall and allow for in-depth discussion between key stakeholders. They would be held for up to 20 people as breakfast or dinner events. The topics would include:
 - Brexit: the views of other EU member states
 - Brexit: how to strike a trade deal
6. The two public seminars would be held for an audience of around 100 -120 at the IfG. They would primarily be structured as panel events. The topics would include:
 - Pascal Lamy: UK and the WTO
 - Brexit: How should the UK Government approach EU negotiations?
7. The events would be chaired by a senior representative from the Institute for Government, the City Corporation and/or a respected outsider. The audience would be drawn from senior figures from the Civil Service, political parties, the City and the wider business community, think tanks and academia.

Implications

8. It is proposed that the required funding of £18,000 is drawn from the Policy Initiatives Fund and categorised under 'Events' and charged to *City's Cash*. The current uncommitted balance in the 2016/17 is £220,400 prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

Conclusion

9. The City Corporation sponsorship of this series of events in partnership with the IfG accords well with its role in promoting and supporting London as the world's leading international financial and business centre in light of the Brexit negotiations. The partnership with the IfG would allow the City Corporation to engage closely with key stakeholders and contribute to the debate.

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