

Committee Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee	Dated: 8 June 2017
Subject: Recommendations for Policy and Resources Committee attendance at 2017 Party Conferences	Public
Report of: Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	For Decision
Report author: Jeremy Blackburn, Head of Corporate Affairs	

Summary

Subsequent to comments at the meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee on 4th May, this report provides an opportunity for widening possible attendance at the 2017 Party Conferences.

Background

At present all Members of PR-ED Sub Committee have the right to attend, subject to budget.

Members play a pivotal role as representatives, speakers and hosts at the Corporation's party conference activities. We wish to maximise the Corporation's influence through those Members with experience and connections in specific parties and key areas of the Corporation's role and operations.

It is proposed to change the procedures governing which Members are funded to attend party conferences. The objective of this is to facilitate the best possible policy discussion and contact for the City Corporation, strategically using members to achieve that.

Recommendation

1. The proposed recommendation for attendance in the future is:
 - Maintain the approach of previous years, whereby funded attendance was available to all Members of the PR-ED Sub-Committee, subject to the Corporate Affairs budget;
 - Other Members of the wider Court with specific experience or relevance may exceptionally be invited to attend party conferences as a representative of the City Corporation where appropriate, subject to the Corporate Affairs budget;
 - Other Members attending party conferences in a self-funded and separate capacity would be entitled to attend Corporation dinners.

Conclusion

2. Members who are funded to attend would have their experience, connections and sector relevance utilised in a strategic programme of targeted meetings, speaking opportunities and in hosting Corporation events.

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