

Committee(s) Policy and Resources	Dated: 14 December 2017
Subject: Sponsorship of the CPS Margaret Thatcher Conference on China – June/July 2018	Public
Report of: Director of Communications	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 China in London in June/July 2018. The half-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 relationship between China and the UK.

The CPS has already been engaging with stakeholders on China engagement and plans to use the 2018 conference to provide analysis of China's economy and its relationship with Britain. Douglas Flint, former Chairman of HSBC, the Chinese Embassy and a number of MPs in Westminster have expressed an interest in participating.

The proposal is to sponsor this event, as we did in 2017. We would seek a total of £21,000 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 China in June/July 2018 at a cost of £21,000 funded from your Committee's Policy Initiatives Fund 2018/19, 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 Robert Colville. 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 Conference on Liberty in 2017 (speakers including the Israeli Ambassador and Henry Kissinger); keynote lecture with 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

1. The CPS is hosting its third *Margaret Thatcher Conference on China* in London in June/July 2018. The half 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.
2. Lead discussions will take place on the following themes: Britain in China (in terms of trade, investment, diplomacy and cultural ties); China in Britain; and the key challenges facing China from an economic, demographic and environmental point of view.
3. The 2017 Liberty Conference sponsored by the City Corporation was very successful. Attended by over 700 influential delegates, it enjoyed a worldwide impact.
4. The work of the CPS and this conference accord well with the role of the City Corporation in strengthening commercial and political ties between Britain and China. It will also attract a high-level audience of politicians, diplomats and MPs from the UK, China and beyond, as well as attracting significant media coverage.

Implications

It is proposed that the required funding of £21,000 is drawn from your committees Policy Initiatives Fund categorised under 'Events' and charged to City's Cash. The current uncommitted balance in the 2018/19 is £862,665 prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

Conclusion

5. The proposed sponsorship of the CPS China 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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