

Committee(s)	Dated:
Policy and Resources Committee General Purposes Committee of Aldermen	22 February 2018 20 March 2018
Subject: Corporate Diplomatic Engagement Policy	Public
Report of: The Town Clerk	For Decision
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Summary

The City of London Corporation engages with the diplomatic community in a variety of ways. Whilst this demonstrates the Corporation's vast reach, it is important that engagement with the diplomatic community is carried out consistently, strategically and in a coordinated fashion. This paper proposes a new *Corporate Diplomatic Engagement Policy* regarding how the City Corporation should engage with the diplomatic community, which primarily ensures co-ordinated engagement as well as best utilising all Members' skills and interests.

If Members are minded to agree the policy, there are a number of next steps that are required in order to embed the policy internally and to ensure that the diplomatic community are aware of the contact points within the City Corporation.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Agree that the Corporate Diplomatic Engagement Policy be adopted.

Main Report

Background

1. The City Corporation has always valued its contacts and relationships with the diplomatic community (e.g. Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Consul Generals and other government representatives) in assisting to strengthen links with markets and industries across the world.
2. Given the importance of significant global events such as Brexit, a new focused policy to engage with the diplomatic community both in London and internationally is proposed.
3. Previously engagement has been vast but somewhat uncoordinated, and efforts have often been duplicated.

4. The aim of this policy is to ensure that there is a consistent message conveyed to the diplomatic community from across the City Corporation and that the skills and expertise of all Members are best utilised.
5. The Chairman of Policy and the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen, as well as the current and previous Lord Mayors, have adopted the principle of “*One Team, One Message, One Strategy*” to increase the coordination of engagement between Chairman of Policy and the Lord Mayor. This principle is at the centre of this policy.
6. It is recognised that it is a Member’s right to have and maintain their own professional and/or personal relationships with representatives from the diplomatic community. However, in maintaining such relationships Members are reminded that they are not acting as representatives of the City Corporation.

Corporate Diplomatic Engagement Policy

7. The Corporate Diplomatic Engagement Policy sets out the following principles and understandings:
 - a. In order to strengthen relationships with the diplomatic community, it is important that the diplomatic community are aware of the who the contact points are within the City Corporation.
 - b. The two key spokespersons for the City Corporation are the Policy Chairman and the Lord Mayor.
 - c. In broad terms, the Chairman of Policy (or their representative) leads on City Corporation relationships with diplomats (or other relevant figures within the diplomatic community) representing countries where the Corporation is focused on policy and regulatory issues in that market. The Lord Mayor (or their representative) leads on relationships representing countries where the Corporation is focused on trade and commercial deals in that market.
 - d. However, it is also recognised that several Members of the Court, as well as both the Special Representative for the City to the EU and the Special Adviser to Asia, have expertise in particular countries, regions and policy areas. To this end, Members are able to engage on behalf of the Chairman of Policy and the Lord Mayor.
 - e. To ensure that Members’ collective expertise and relationships may have the most impact, and that engagement undertaken on behalf of the City is co-ordinated and focused, this policy requires that before Members undertake any engagements the Chairman of Policy and/or the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen (as appropriate) are first consulted.

- f. The expectation of Members who engage on behalf of the City Corporation is that key messages are fed back to relevant officers and the Chairman of Policy and/or the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen (acting on behalf of the Lord Mayor's interests).
- g. Engagement will be focused before and after the Policy Chairman's and Lord Mayor's overseas visits or around particular events, such as the Commonwealth Summit. This will help to maximise the impact of those relationships.

Nominating Ambassadors for the Freedom of the City

- 8. In addition to this, the Freedoms Applications Committee has recently agreed a process regarding nominating Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other significant political figures for the Freedom of the City. This process (Appendix A) should be seen within the context of this proposed policy.
- 9. The approved process has been adopted to ensure that consistency in the way in which Ambassadors, High Commissioners and significant political figures are nominated for the Freedom. Members are reminded to note the new process whenever suggesting such figures for the Freedom of the City.

Next steps to solidify the Corporate Diplomatic Engagement Policy

- 10. To embed this policy both internally and externally, the following next steps will take place over the next few months:
 - a. A letter from the Chairman of Policy and the Lord Mayor will be sent to the diplomatic community in London, inviting further engagement with the City Corporation and explaining that meetings with the Chairman of Policy (or their representative) will focus on policy and regulatory issues, and meetings with the Lord Mayor (or their representative) will focus on trade issues.
 - b. The policy will be distributed to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval, and to the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen for information.

Conclusion

- 11. The Corporate Diplomatic Engagement Policy will help ensure that the City Corporation is engaging with the diplomatic community consistently, strategically and in a coordinated fashion. It will also ensure that Members' skills and interests are best utilised.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Process for Nominating Ambassadors for Freedoms

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