

<b>Committee(s):</b> Policy and Resources Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 3 May 2018
<b>Subject:</b> Sponsorship of Centre for European Reform's Ditchley Conference	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Jan Gokcen, Corporate Affairs Officer	

### Summary

The Centre for European Reform (CER) is a leading think-tank that is 'devoted to making the European Union work better and strengthening its role in the world.' The City Corporation proposes to partner with the CER on a high-level conference.

The second proposal is to sponsor the 2018 Ditchley Park Conference, taking place on 16-17 November. It is an invitation-only gathering of 40 senior economists and senior policy-makers from the United States of America, Europe and the United Kingdom. This year the Conference will address the following topic: *'Will Europe's growth spurt peter out?'* The CER is seeking £20,000 for the organisation of the two-day event.

Sponsorship of this event will allow for high-level interaction with key City Corporation audiences and supports both the City Corporation's policy work and engagement strategy on current political and economic issues.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to agree to provide £20,000 from your Committee's 2018/19 Policy Initiatives Fund categorised under 'Events' and charged to 'City's Cash' to sponsor CER's Ditchley Park Conference.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The City Corporation has a long and successful relationship with the CER and has sponsored their annual Ditchley Park Conference since 2012.

#### Current Position

2. The City Corporation plays a leading role supporting and promoting the City's global status. In so doing, it focuses on strategic economic development and part of that includes convening discussions of key interest to our stakeholders.

#### Proposals

3. The proposal is for a high-level conference to take place between 16-17 November at Ditchley Park, Oxfordshire. The 2018 Ditchley Park Conference

is an invitation-only gathering of 40 senior economists and senior policy-makers from the United States of America, Europe and the United Kingdom. This year's topic, '*Will Europe's growth spurt peter out?*', will explore the rise in Europe's growth rates to pre-crisis levels, giving specific attention to the factors underlying this rise and their potential economic, social and political implications.

4. Expected participants at the 2018 Ditchley Park Conference include John Kay, Economics and Business Commentator for the Financial Times; Nicholas Crafts, Professor of Economic History at Warwick University and Director of the Economic and Social Research Council; Jean Pisani-Ferry, former Commissioner General for Policy and Planning for the Government of France; Marco Buti, the European Commission's Director General for Economic and Financial Affairs. There is the potential for other sponsors to be enlisted alongside the City Corporation, of which we will be informed in due course. Sponsorship guarantees the City Corporation two places at this very select event. The City Corporation would also receive branding on all conference-related materials.

### **Implications**

5. It is proposed that the required funding of £20,000 is drawn from your Committee's 2018/19 Policy Initiatives Fund categorised under Events and charged to *City's Cash*. The current uncommitted balance in the 2018/19 Fund is £571,441 prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

### **Conclusion**

6. The proposed partnership with the CER accords well with the City Corporation's role in promoting debates on issues of pertinence to the City. Sponsorship of CER's 2018 Ditchley Park Conference will enable high-level interaction with key audiences in both the public and private sectors, supporting the City Corporation's economic development and engagement programme tailored to high level figures on key political and economic issues.

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