

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Policy and Resources Committee	07 June 2018
Subject: Request for finance: 2018 Party Conferences	Public
Report of: Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	For Decision
Report author: Jan Gokcen, Corporate Affairs Officer	

Summary

Every year the City of London Corporation delivers a programme of strategic political engagement at the political party conferences.

This report presents Members with the finalised format of City Corporation activities at 2018 party conferences, as presented to the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee on 29 May 2018, and also asks Members to approve funding for the City Corporation's think tank partnerships at Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative party conferences, the total sum being **£38,100**.

This figure will cover events which the City Corporation will host in partnership with think tanks at Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative party conferences, the details of which can be found below.

Recommendation

Members of the Policy and Resources Committee are asked to:

- note the City Corporation's planned activity at 2018 party conferences, as presented to your Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee, and set out at Appendix 1;
- agree to provide funding for the City Corporation's partnerships, the total sum being £38,100, with the four think tanks listed below at Liberal Democrat, Labour, and Conservative party conferences:
 - i) Social Market Foundation
 - ii) The Fabian Society
 - iii) Centre for Policy Studies
 - iv) Chatham House
- agree to visit the question of providing funding for partnership(s) at the Scottish National Party conference once the necessary details have been released.

Main Report

Background

1. At the 26 February 2018 meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development (PRED) Sub-Committee, Members agreed to the City Corporation's presence at Liberal Democrat, Labour party, Conservative, and Scottish National Party conferences, as well as the format of engagement at each

event. This was ratified by the Policy and Resources Committee at its 15 March 2018 meeting.

2. At the aforementioned PRED Sub-Committee meeting, Members also agreed that the City Corporation's continued presence at these party conferences provided the organisation with key opportunities for strategic engagement on matters of high importance to the City Corporation's various policy interests and initiatives.

2018 Programmes

3. To ensure that these opportunities for strategic engagement are maximised, officers have brokered partnerships with prominent think tanks, working to bring senior figures of industry and government together at City Corporation events at Liberal Democrat, Labour, and Conservative party conferences.
4. In the previous two years the City Corporation has also attended and hosted events at the Scottish National Party conference. The details of the Scottish National Party conference are yet to be finalised, and as such the City Corporation's activities have yet to be arranged.
5. The City Corporation's think tank partner for a private roundtable at the Liberal Democrat party conference will be the Social Market Foundation.
6. The City Corporation's think tank partner for a private roundtable at the Labour party conference will be the Fabian Society.
7. The City Corporation's think tank partners for a private roundtable and open fringe event at the Conservative party conference will be Centre for Policy Studies and Chatham House respectively.
8. In addition, the City Corporation will partner with the trade association UK Finance for both the Labour and Conservative party conferences' private dinners. UK Finance represents approximately 300 of the leading firms providing finance, banking, markets and payments-related services in or from the UK. Members of UK Finance vary in size, are located throughout the United Kingdom and operate across a range of areas, providing UK Finance with an extensive network and wealth of expertise in an area of prime concern to the City Corporation.
9. The full programme of events is outlined for Members information at Appendix 1.

Funding Request

10. The following section outlines the amount of funding necessary for each of the respective think tank partnerships:

2018 Liberal Democrat Party Conference, 15-18 September 2018, Brighton:

Private Roundtable event – Monday 17 September

Theme: Fintech

Think Tank Partner: Social Market Foundation

Cost: £9,100 + VAT

2018 Labour Party Conference, 23-26 September, Liverpool:

Private Roundtable event - Monday 24 September

Theme: Culture as a driver of growth

Think Tank Partner: The Fabian Society

Cost: £9,000 + VAT

2018 Conservative Party Conference, 30 September – 03 October, Birmingham:

Private Roundtable event - Monday 1 October

Theme: Brexit and regulation

Think Tank Partner: Centre for Policy Studies (CPS)

Cost: £8,000+ VAT

Open Fringe – Date tbc

Theme: Trade

Think Tank Partner: Chatham House

Cost: £12,000 + VAT

2018 Scottish National Party Conference, dates and locations TBA, activity TBC

Corporate & Strategic Implications

11. Proactive engagement and focused relationship-building in partnership with think tanks at party conferences will enhance our visibility, enable us to contribute effectively to policy debates, and maximise opportunities for wider strategic engagement on matters of high import to the City Corporation's various policy interests and initiatives.

Financial Implications

12. It is proposed that the required funding of £38,100 is drawn from your Policy Initiatives Fund 2018/19, categorised under the 'Events' and charged to City's Cash. The current uncommitted balance available within your Committee's 2018/19 Policy Initiatives Fund amounts to £391,941 prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

Conclusion

13. Partnering with the four listed think tanks at 2018 party conference season will strengthen the City Corporation's political engagement programme, facilitate effective contributions to public policy debates, and maximise opportunities for strategic engagement.

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Appendix 1

In chronological order, plans for the 2018 party conference season are as follows:

2018 Liberal Democrat Party Conference, 15-18 September 2018, Brighton:

Private Roundtable event – Monday 17 September

Theme: Fintech

Think Tank Partner: Social Market Foundation

Dinner – Monday 17 September

Venue: The Dome, Hotel du Vin, Monday 17 Sept

Accommodation: Hotel du Vin

2018 Labour Party Conference, 23-26 September, Liverpool:

Private Roundtable event - Monday 24 September

Theme: Culture as a driver of Growth

Think Tank Partner: The Fabian Society

Dinner – Monday 24 September

Venue: Royal Liver Building, Monday 24 Sept.

Partner: UK Finance

Accommodation: Malmaison

2018 Conservative Party Conference, 30 September – 03 October, Birmingham:

Private Roundtable event - Monday 1 October

Theme: Brexit and regulation

Think Tank Partner: Centre for Policy Studies (CPS)

Dinner – Monday 1 October

Venue: Birmingham Town Hall

Partner: UK Finance

Open Fringe – Date tbc

Theme: Trade

Think Tank Partner: Chatham House

Accommodation: Malmaison

Scottish National Party Conference, dates and locations TBA, activity tbc