

Committee:	Date:
Policy & Resources	07/06/2018
Subject: Social Mobility: sponsorship of the Social Mobility Employer Index	Public
Report of: Damian Nussbaum, Director of Economic Development	For Decision
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Summary

In 2017, the City of London Corporation sponsored the inaugural Social Mobility Employer Index, run by the Social Mobility Foundation. The index is a benchmarking initiative targeted at employers to improve access to professions for individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds. The City Corporation has been invited to sponsor the index again in 2018 and host the high-profile launch event.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Agree sponsorship of the Social Mobility Employer Index for 2018 for £35k to be met from your committee's Policy Initiatives Fund 2018/19, categorised under the category 'Communities' and charged to City's Cash.
- Agree to allocate £25k for other work on social mobility that is currently under development to enable the City Corporation to continue to be a leading voice on social mobility. Delivery of this work will be agreed in consultation with the Policy Chairman.

Main Report

Background

1. The 2017 Index was sponsored by the City Corporation and was launched at the Guildhall in June 2017. A total of 98 organisations, employing just under 1million people applied to the index, of which, 57 were from the legal, banking and wider financial and professional services sectors. A further, 30 of the organisations in the top 50 ranked applicants came from the Financial and professional services sector.
2. The sponsorship involved the launch event and hosting a series of workshops held during the autumn of 2017. Collectively, the launch event and the workshops engaged 111 businesses. The launch event was attended by over 200 delegates and Justine Greening (Secretary of State for Education at the time), Alan Milburn (Chair of the Social Mobility Commission at the time) and David Johnston, CEO of the Social Mobility Foundation spoke alongside our Chairman of Policy and Resources.
3. Sponsorship of the 2017 Index enabled us to speak credibly at the highest levels of Government and business about social mobility and raised our profile as an organisation that is actively involved in working on the many issues

4. The City Corporation applied to the Index and was ranked 50th out of the total 98 applicants. This highlighted the positive work that the City Corporation has been actively doing in relation to social mobility and helped to identify areas for further action. We have submitted information to the 2018 index and expect to learn of our ranking in July 2018.

Current Position

5. The Social Mobility Foundation has approached us to continue our sponsorship of the Index in 2018 and to work collaboratively with them to address social mobility.
6. The City Corporation is continuing its work to address social mobility and, building on our work to support schools, residents and the wider community has commenced work on a social mobility strategy. The aim is to provide an aligned organisation-wide vision, approach and direction of travel on social mobility.
7. We are also in dialogue with external partners active in social mobility, e.g. Social Mobility Commission to explore opportunities for collaborative and innovative joint working.
8. In considering sponsorships of the index for 2018 we have taken account of the benefits that we realised from the different aspects of our sponsorship in 2017 as well as the future sustainability of financial support for the Index. Officers believe that sponsorship level proposed for 2018 will support our profile and position as a credible spokesperson on social mobility. It will also provide us with the opportunity to further our own work in this area.

Proposals

9. That approval be given to sponsor the Social Mobility Employer Index for 2018 to a total of £35k; £30k sponsorship and £5k to host the Index launch event in July 2018.
10. That an additional sum of £25k be allocated for other work on social mobility that is currently under development to enable the City Corporation to continue to be a leading voice on social mobility. Delivery of this work will be agreed in consultation with the Policy Chairman.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

11. Work around social mobility and employment supports the following Corporate Plan aims:
 - People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential
 - We have access to the talent and skills we need.
12. This work is also supported by the Employability and Education strategies as well as the emerging skills, digital skills and social mobility and responsible business strategies.

Implications

13. It is proposed that the required funding of £60,000 is drawn from your Committees 2018/19 Policy Initiatives Fund, categorised under the 'Communities' 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

14. The opportunities to sponsor the Social Mobility Employer Index for 2018 is of benefit to the City Corporations work in this area and offers an opportunity to establish ourselves as a credible and powerful voice on social mobility.

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