

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Policy and Resources	5 July 2018
<b>Subject:</b> Events Partnership with the Strand Group, King's College London	<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 Strand Group at King's College London examines the institutions of British Government through partnered teaching, research and events with government and business. The Strand Group's events bring together figures from the worlds of government, business, journalism and academia, discussing contemporary issues of government and public affairs and to placing them into their historical context. The Strand Group's most developed institutional relationship is with HM Treasury.

It is proposed that the Strand Group and the City of London Corporation enter into a two-year partnership, spanning September 2018 to August 2020, centered around a series of events focused on HM Treasury as an institution and topics of interest to both the government and the City Corporation such as:

- Economic growth
- Brexit
- Housing and local government planning policies
- Infrastructure
- Financial and professional services.

The cost of three events per year would be £25,000, amounting to total cost of £50,000 over two years.

### Recommendation

Members of the Policy and Resources Committee are asked to:

- Agree to fund three events at a cost of £25,000 per annum for two years, to be met from your Committee's Policy and Initiatives Fund for 2018/19 and 2019/20 categorised under Events and charged to City's Cash.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. On 2 May 2017 the City of London Corporation sponsored an event organised by the Strand Group marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the decision to grant operational independence over interest rates to the Bank of England. Hosted at KCL's Strand Campus, panellists and guests included former Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, Ed Balls, and the Governor of the Bank of England, Dr Mark Carney.

2. On 14 November 2017 the City Corporation sponsored an event organised by the Strand Group with Lord Andrew Adonis, then Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission, concerning the infrastructure developments required to maintain London's global competitiveness.
3. Following these events, it is proposed that the City Corporation enters into a two-year partnership with the Strand Group based on the latter's institutional relationship with HM Treasury. The partnership would involve the Strand Group organising 3 events per annum on policy areas of relevance to the City Corporation (such as economic growth, Brexit, housing and local government planning policies, Infrastructure, and the financial and professional services) and, as well of business leaders and eminent academics, will feature senior HM Treasury representatives and departmental Ministers.

### **Current Position**

4. Over the past three years, the City Corporation has developed its engagements with KCL. These include:
  - 2015 – 2018: the City Corporation supported KCL's 'King's Commission on London', examining London's health, further education, and skills systems needs as well as its economic prospects through 2030 and beyond.
  - February 2018: the Policy Chairman met with Deborah Bull, Vice President and Vice-Principal of KCL, and other senior representatives from the University, discussing general initiatives on which both KCL and the City Corporation can cooperate.
  - Ongoing: the Economic Development Office are liaising with KCL and other Russell Group Universities based in the capital on the possibility of hosting a roundtable on technology, innovation, and the role that these universities can play in developing an ecosystem necessary to grow innovative technology firms to scale.
5. This report thus provides further strategic direction to the City Corporation's ongoing engagement with KCL.

### **Proposals**

6. It is proposed that the Strand Group and the City Corporation enter into a two-year partnership, spanning September 2018 to August 2020, centered on a series of events focused on HM Treasury as an institution and topics of interest to government and the City of London, i.e. economic growth, Brexit, housing and planning policies, infrastructure, financial and professional services
7. The mechanics of this proposed relations comprise the following:
  - The cost of three events per year would be £25,000, amounting to £50,000 for the two years. Any excess costs will be met by KCL.
  - The Strand Group will host each event/lecture for approximately 100-200 guests, on mutually agreed topics of interest and relevance to the City Corporation, followed by an invitation-only dinner for 40-60 guests.

- The Strand Group will host two of the City Corporation partnered events in the Guildhall. Should opportunities for strategic engagement with senior civil servants, politicians, and government ministers be more opportune elsewhere, the third event can be hosted in an alternative venue.
- A City Corporation representative will be offered a speaking opportunity at each event.
- The City Corporation will invite up to 30 guests to the lectures and up to 10 guests to the invitation only dinner.
- The Strand Group will manage the organisation and logistics of these events in their entirety.
- Event materials will be co-branded, including email invitations, the relevant page of The Strand Group's website and any materials presented or distributed.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

8. A two-year partnership with KCL's Strand Group, a research, teaching and events unit examining the contemporary history of the institutions of British Government, will enable the City Corporation to strategically engage with civil servants, policymakers and government Ministers on a range of pertinent issues such as economic growth, Brexit, housing and local government planning policies, infrastructure, and the financial and professional services. The two-year partnership with the Strand Group will be based primarily on the organisation's developed institutional relationship with HM Treasury.

### **Implications**

9. It is proposed that the required funding of £25,000 per annum for two years is drawn from your Policy Initiatives Fund for 2018/19 and 2019/20 categorised under 'Events' and charged to City's Cash. The current uncommitted balance available within your Committee's 2018/19 and 2019/20 Policy Initiatives Fund amounts to £258,841 and £815,865 prior to any allowances being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

### **Conclusion**

10. Partnering with KCL's Strand Group will strengthen the City Corporation's voice in key public policy matters with government departments, specifically HM Treasury, by strategically engaging with business representatives, policymakers, civil servants, and government ministers.

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