

Report – Policy & Resources Committee

Report of Urgent Action Taken: Financial Services Skills Commission

To be presented on Thursday, 18th June 2020

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN

1. The Financial Services Skills Taskforce was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Mansion House speech in June 2018. The Taskforce was set up to look at the current and future skills needs of the UK Financial Services Sector and subsequently made a series of recommendations to help ensure the sector is prepared to meet its long-term skills needs in a period of unprecedented and technological change.
2. In November 2019, your Policy and Resources Committee confirmed support for the recommendations of the Financial Services Skills Taskforce and delegated authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman, to consider and agree the exact nature of the City Corporation's support for the Financial Services Skills Commission, that being the proposed financial services skills body emerging from the review (which was expected to include annual membership at an estimated cost of £20,000 per annum).
3. Following subsequent work with Her Majesty's Treasury, it was agreed that the Financial Services Skills Commission should be established as a Company Limited by Guarantee and that the City Corporation's support would include an annual membership subscription and the secondment of the City Corporation's Head of Skills Policy to become the Commission's first Chief Executive. This would enable the City Corporation to co-ordinate and embed close co-operation on its work on skills policy in financial services across the UK. The costs of the support were to be funded from s106 planning obligation funds, ring-fenced for skills work within and around the City of London.
4. In the absence of a meeting of the Court of Common Council in April and to facilitate the launch of the Commission on 30 April, approval was sought under urgency procedures for the City Corporation to become a corporate member of the new financial services skills company limited by guarantee (to be known as the Financial Services Skills Commission or such other name as may be agreed), becoming one of two 'permanent' members of the new company. TheCityUK, as the second of two permanent members, was providing support for the Commission equivalent to that provided by the City Corporation; this includes hosting the Commission staff in their registered London office. The level of

support for the Commission provided by both the City Corporation and TheCityUK is to be reviewed on an annual basis.

5. The Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee was also nominated as as the City Corporation's appointee to the Board of Directors of the new company, with the Deputy Chairman, and/or Vice Chairmen of the Policy & Resources Committee to be appointed Alternate Directors as permitted under the Articles of Association of the new company.
6. Various additional approvals were also awarded to allow for the Town Clerk to undertake such actions as may be required to incorporate and register the new company, and following incorporation, as may be required for the City Corporation in the exercise of its rights as a company member; as well as for the Comptroller and City Solicitor to take any relevant steps for the incorporation and registration of the new company including to settle the Articles of Association and any other documentation relating to or arising from the establishment of the company.

RECOMMENDATION

7. We **recommend** that the action taken be noted.

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 24th day of April 2020.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Chair, Policy & Resources Committee