

Committees: Policy and Resources	Date: 8 April 2021
Subject: Cross River Partnership Membership and Representation	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2,5,9,10 and 11
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
Report of Jon Averns, Director of Markets and Consumer Protection Dept.	For Decision
Report author: Ruth Calderwood Air Quality Manager, Markets and Consumer Protection Dept.	

Summary

Cross River Partnership (CRP) is a public-private partnership working with seven partner London local authorities (including the City of London Corporation), seventeen business organisations (mainly Business Improvement Districts) and six other strategic agencies such as the Greater London Authority, Port of London Authority and Network Rail. CRP also works on specific projects with a further twelve London Boroughs.

The City Corporation has been a member of CRP since its inception in 1994. Wendy Hyde CC has been the City Corporation's representative and co-chair of the CRP Board for five years. Ms Hyde has indicated her intention to stand down from the Board, so a request is being made for the appointment of a Member to represent the City Corporation on the Board.

The City Corporation pays an annual membership fee of £10,000, which is currently met from the Air Quality budget. Membership provides a place on the CRP Board, a platform for collaborative work and the submission of funding applications on behalf of partner organisations. Approval is being sought for the continuation of membership and payment of the £10,000 membership fee for the next three financial years.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

1. appoint a Member to replace Ms Hyde on the CRP Board
2. approve further membership of CRP, comprising three annual payments of £10,000 in the financial years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 to be met from the Air Quality budget

3. delegate, to the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection or the Executive Director of Environment, the authority to approve annual contributions for the next three years, subject to there being no major change of CRP policy, reporting back to your Committee only in the event of a major policy shift or performance shortcomings

Main Report

Background

1. Cross River Partnership is a strategic development and delivery, public/private partnership. Seven London local authorities are partners (including the City Corporation), along with seventeen business organisations, mainly Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and other strategic organisations like the Port of London Authority. Westminster City Council is the lead accountable body for CRP.
2. The City Corporation has been a member of CRP since it was founded in 1994. Wendy Hyde CC has been the City Corporation's representative and co-chair of the CRP Board for five years. Ms Hyde has indicated her intention to stand down from the Board.
3. CRP describes itself as a test bed for designing and delivering innovative pilot projects with its partners. It has project delivery expertise in the following areas: Place Making; Health and Wellbeing; Air Quality; Diversity and Inclusion; Freight, Transport and Active Travel; Energy; Environment; Culture and Lighting.
4. The annual membership fee for a local authority is £10,000. Membership provides:
 - a. a place on the public-private sector CRP Board
 - b. consultation on the Business Plan
 - c. facilitated cross-borough and cross-BID discussions on transport, health and environment topics
 - d. information on funding opportunities
 - e. funding application(s) submitted by CRP on behalf of central London local authorities, BIDS and other partner organisations collaboratively
5. The City Corporation is working with CRP on a Clean Air Thames project and Clean Air Villages project, both of which support delivery of the Air Quality Strategy 2019 – 2024. Officers have also worked with CRP on a Healthy Streets Everyday project, a lighting London project and the Illuminated River. CRP also manages the Central London Sub Regional Transport Partnership on behalf of Transport for London. The City Corporation is a member of this partnership.
6. In the 2020/21 Annual Report, CRP lists achievements which include:
 - a. Winner of two Global Good awards for smart electric urban logistics
 - b. The launch of a new interactive Health Streets Everyday website

- c. Seven new cargo bike schemes
 - d. Engagement with 978 businesses as part of Clean Air Villages
 - e. Clean Air Champions network
7. One of the key advantages of membership of CRP is being able to participate in collaborative work and be part of a large network of organisations across central London with common goals. CRP has a strong track record of obtaining funding to deliver programmes which lead to real changes on the ground.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

8. Membership of Cross River Partnership supports the following Corporate Plan outcomes:
- No. 2 People enjoy good health and wellbeing
 - No. 5 Businesses are trusted and socially and environmentally responsible
 - No. 9 We are digitally and physically well-connected and responsive
 - No. 10 We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration
 - No. 11 We have clean air, land and water
9. Partnership work has also assisted in the delivery of actions in the City Corporation Air Quality Strategy and Transport Strategy.

Financial implications

10. The annual fee for membership of CRP is £10,000. This is currently met from the Air Quality local risk budget. This budget was transferred from the Economic Development budget in 2019/20. Given the success that CRP has with project delivery, it is considered that membership provides value for money.

Resource implications

11. The Air Quality Manager is a member of the CRP Board and works with CRP on projects including Clean Air Thames and Clean Air Villages. Other officers across the organisation work with CRP on specific ad hoc projects.

Legal implications

12. None

Risk implications

13. None

Equalities implications

14. None.

Security implications

15. None.

Conclusion

16. Cross River Partnership (CRP) is a public-private partnership working with seven partner London local authorities (including the City Corporation), seventeen business organisations and six other strategic agencies such as the Greater London Authority, Port of London Authority and Network Rail.

17. The City Corporation has been a member of CRP since its inception in 1994. Wendy Hyde CC has been the City Corporation's representative and co-chair of the CRP Board for five years. Ms Hyde has indicated her intention to stand down from the Board and Members are therefore being asked to appoint a replacement.

18. The annual membership fee for the City Corporation is £10,000. Membership provides access to the CRP Board, a platform for collaborative work and access to external funding to deliver projects on the ground. Approval is being sought for the continuation of membership and payment of the £10,000 membership fee for the next three financial years.

Ruth Calderwood, Air Quality Manager
T: 020 7332 1162
E: ruth.calderwood@cityoflondon.gov.uk