

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Policy and Resources – For information	23/03/23
<b>Subject:</b> Memberships and subscriptions	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcome in the City Corporation’s Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	Corporate Plan outcomes 2-10
<b>Does this proposal extra revenue and/or capital funding</b>	No
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N/A
<b>What is the source of the funding</b>	N/A
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department</b>	N/A
<b>Report of:</b> Deputy Town Clerk, Executive Director of Innovation & Growth (IG) and the Remembrancer	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Philip Saunders, Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs Simi Shah, Project Director, Innovation and Growth Bruce Hunt, City Remembrancer’s Office	

### Summary

As part of the City of London Corporation’s external engagement across public policy and public affairs in relation to financial and professional services and in respect of international affairs, a number of memberships and subscriptions are held across various Corporation teams with relevant organisations.

The Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee considered a report at its meeting in October 2022 setting out the City Corporation’s relationship with think tanks. This report complements that one and provides a broader overview of corporate memberships and subscriptions.

These memberships and subscriptions are reviewed within the context of annual business planning ensure their ongoing relevance and alignment with the Corporation’s strategic objectives as well as value for money.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the current memberships and subscriptions.

### Main Report

## **Background**

1. The City of London Corporation engages regularly with financial and professional services organisations, government and policy makers, think tanks and other relevant membership bodies.
2. The engagement serves three core purposes:
  - a. Proactively communicating the Corporation's strategy and providing engagement opportunities and platforms for senior spokespeople.
  - b. Wider opportunities for Members and Officers to engage through events, conferences or other bespoke meetings.
  - c. To learn and gather information that is relevant to the Corporation and its strategic priorities to be disseminated internally, where relevant and appropriate.
3. These relationships are held across the teams in Innovation & Growth (IG), Corporate Affairs and Remembrancer's and further the aims of the overarching Corporate Plan as a whole.
4. Some organisations operate a subscription and/or membership model with associated costs. These are reviewed regularly to ensure alignment with the Corporation's strategic priorities as well as with its policy objectives.
5. It is important for the Corporation to be able to access a range of information, expertise and views to inform its own strategic decision-making processes. Organisations or membership bodies that are engaged reflect the need for the Corporation to operate across the political spectrum.
6. The organisations or membership bodies reflect the Corporation's target markets as well as the need for the Corporation to be well briefed across wider policy agendas.
7. This report focuses solely on memberships and subscriptions and does not include organisations to which the Corporation provides formal funding to as part of a strategic partnership.

## **Current Position**

8. Across the above departments, the Corporation currently holds memberships or subscriptions with the following organisations or groups:
  - Confederation of British Industry (CBI)
  - The All Party Parliamentary China Group
  - British American Business
  - The Industry Advisory Group to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Wholesale Financial Markets and Service
  - QED Brussels
  - The Centre for European Policy Studies

- OnePolicyPlace
  - European Parliamentary Financial Services Forum
  - British Chamber of Commerce EU & Belgium
  - Chatham House
  - Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation
  - Local Government Information Unit
  - New Financial (including our sponsorship of the Women in Finance Charter)
  - New Local (formerly New Local Government Network)
  - Onward
  - Whitehall and Industry Group
  - International Business and Diplomatic Exchange
  - Industry in Parliament Trust
9. The CBI is a pan sector organisation whose membership includes firms and trade associations. It has over one hundred policy specialists and is the biggest policy unit outside of Whitehall. It has a membership over around 190,000 businesses and holds numerous events across the year which the Corporation has access to. It is an important relationship to retain.
10. The All Party Parliamentary China Group (APPCG) was established in 1997 to widen the parliamentary contribution to the UK-China relationship. It is a forum for policymakers to be kept informed on China as well as a platform for discussions on all issues of importance to the bilateral relationship. The Corporation's interest in China is as a key market for trade and investment, as a financial centre in its own right, and as a major inbound tourism market.
11. British American Business is a valuable partner for the Corporation on our US policy work. We have recently accepted an invite to join their new Financial & Professional Services subcommittee and it is an important relationship to retain.
12. Our membership of the Industry Advisory Group to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Wholesale Financial Markets and Service is a sponsorship alongside a number of other trade associations and UK Finance hosts the secretariat.
13. QED Brussels is an event coordination and management service. They are well connected in the Brussels ecosystem, and their events often include speakers from European Commission and the European Parliament. Our Annual Membership includes being invited to attend in-person and hybrid events on a series of relevant topics like financial service regulation, sustainability and digitalisation. The membership also includes event speaking opportunities (10-minute presentation and participation in panel discussion). It is an important relationship to retain.
14. The Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) is a Brussels-based think tank with areas of expertise that include among others: finance, economic and monetary affairs, trade, digitalisation and climate change. We are members of CEPS and the European Capital Markets Institute (ECMI), an independent think-tank CEPS. CEPS is strongly linked to the European Commission. We benefit

from this by meeting key Commission officials at their events and task forces. We are running an event with CEPS at the end of the March. It is an important relationship to retain.

15. OnePolicyPlace (OPP) supports our work and provides daily, personalised, updates on the EU files that are of interest to us. This includes changes in legislation, summaries of meetings and committees etc. It also provides us with a daily newsletter that includes events that may be of interest. It is a valuable source of information.
16. British Chamber of Commerce EU & Belgium facilitates bilateral business & trade between the UK and Belgium. They often host officials from European institutions at their events. We strongly support their work and have been collaborating with them for a long time on a series of events and meetings. We want to strengthen our relationship in the next months (e.g., by participating in some of their committees) and see the relationship as strategically important.
17. The rationale for the relationships with Chatham House, Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation, Local Government Information Unit, New Financial, New Local, Onward, Whitehall and Industry Group, and International Business and Diplomatic Exchange were laid out in the 31/10/22 (see Appendix 1) (Item 7 – Think Tank Review and Membership 2022/2023) to the Communications and Corporate Affairs Subcommittee.
18. Finally, the Industry and Parliamentary Trust (IPT) is an independent, non-lobbying, non-partisan charity that provides a trusted platform of engagement between Parliament and UK business. The IPT is dually supported by cross-party representation of senior parliamentarians on its Board of Trustees, and through the patronage of its industry supporters. The IPT is non-party political and works with all parliamentarians and businesses of any sector or size. The City Corporation's membership provides a platform for a senior City spokesman at 6 events per year across the range of City Corporation policy interests.

## **Proposals**

19. The City of London Corporation will continue to engage with a range of policy makers, policy influencers and membership organisations across the geo and domestic policy spectrum.
20. This activity will be aligned to the Corporation's Competitiveness strategy and be managed by a joint group of Officers from across Innovation and Growth, Corporate Affairs and Remembrancer's. Updates from Communications and External Affairs, Remembrancer's and Innovation and Growth will be provided as part of the regular departmental reports to the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

21. This activity and engagement allows the Corporation to proactively communicate the Corporation's strategy and provides engagement opportunities and platforms for senior spokespeople.
22. It also provides wider opportunities for Members and Officers to engage through events, conferences or other bespoke meetings. In turn it provides the chance to learn and gather information that is relevant to the Corporation and its strategic priorities to be disseminated internally, where relevant and appropriate.
23. This work would also help deliver outcomes 2 – 10 of the 2018-23 Corporate Plan.

### **Resource Implications**

24. No resource implications have been identified.

### **Risk Implications**

25. Given the spread of activity across business, policy and key markets, the risk is currently assessed as low, but is kept under review.

### **Equalities Implications**

26. No equalities implications have been identified although we have the opportunity to use platforms afforded by memberships to showcase our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) leadership.
27. No new legal, security or climate implications arise from the recommendations in this report.

### **Conclusion**

28. Members are asked to note the work of the Communications and External Affairs, Innovation and Growth, and Remembrancer teams in relation to the memberships and subscriptions held across policy related organisations to further the aims of the overarching Corporate Plan as a whole.

### **Appendices**

None

### **Background Papers**

Item 7 – Think Tank Review and Membership 2022/2023) to the Communications and Corporate Affairs Subcommittee 31/10/22.

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