

Report – Policy and Resources Committee

New Outside Body: Thames Estuary Growth Board

To be presented on Thursday 7th December 2023

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

SUMMARY

The Thames Estuary Growth Board (TEGB) is a newly convened partnership between private and public sector organisations. It seeks to drive green economic growth across the Thames Estuary with a particular focus on delivering and increasing private sector investment in the region.

TEGB has asked that a Member of the City of London Corporation sit on their newly convened Board as a formal Corporate Member and have further requested that the Member be the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, or a nominated Deputy thereof. Any such appointment will require the TEGB to be formally recognised as an Outside Body to which the City Corporation appoints. This report therefore seeks approval for this proposed arrangement.

The City Corporation has a strong and well-established interest in the Thames Estuary, both through its activities in the area and through other extant Outside Bodies to which it appoints. It is considered to be in the City's interests to accept the invitation from TEGB.

Recommendation(s)

- Agree to the City of London Corporation becoming a Corporate Member of the TEGB, and for that organisation to be deemed an Outside Body.
- Agree to the Member to sit on the Outside Body to be the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, or nominated Deputy thereof, as requested by TEGB.

MAIN REPORT

1. TEGB is a newly convened body, the precursor to which was established by the UK Government in 2019, through the Secretary of State's response to the Thames Estuary 2050 Growth Commission, chaired by Sir John Armitt. The TEGB was formally incorporated in February 2023.
2. TEGB's Trustee Board includes, alongside senior business leaders, the Leaders of five local authorities: Essex County Council, Kent County Council, Dartford Borough Council, the London Borough of Bexley and the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.
3. The Board's vision is to create a "Green Blue" economy that harnesses the potential of the river, the land and the people to create jobs, improve productivity and ensure sustainability.

4. The work of TEGB, therefore, strongly aligns with the City of London Corporation's interests. Including, but not limited to, distinct corporate responsibilities in Port Health and Environmental Services, existing relationships with Outside Bodies who support economic growth in and surrounding the Thames Estuary, and the Markets Co-Location Programme.
5. Prior to TEGB's formal incorporation, the City Corporation previously attended meetings organised by the group and an Officer from the City Corporation's Markets Team stood as the official substitute, which it is proposed be retained. The City Corporation was represented by the Deputy Policy Chairman at the request of the organisation. For purposes of continuity the TEGB has asked that the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee, or nominated Deputy thereof, sit on the TEGB as a Corporate Member.
6. The Board will meet approximately five times a year. In addition to attending meetings, Board Members will be expected to take an active interest in projects, initiatives and campaigns across the Estuary as well as potentially working with one or more of the Board Committees. TEGB anticipate that the time commitment to be around two days per month for an initial three-year term.
7. There are no financial implications or expectations for the City Corporation to have a Member to sit on the Board. This appointment is unremunerated; reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed by the TEGB. Any appointee to TEGB will need to sign the Board's Code of Conduct.
8. The City Corporation values its links with these bodies and appreciates the time and service Members devote to the wider community by participating in their work.
9. This proposal was considered and supported by your Civic Affairs Sub-Committee at its meeting of 25 October 2023. It was considered by your Policy and Resources Committee under urgency.

RECOMMENDATION

It is **recommended** that the Court:-

- Agree to recognise the Thames Estuary Growth Board as an Outside Body of the City of London Corporation;
- Agree that for the Member who sits on the Outside Body to be the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, or nominated Deputy thereof, as requested by the Thames Estuary Growth Board.

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

DATED this 29th Day of November 2023

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward
Chairman, Policy & Resources Committee