

<b>Committee(s): Policy &amp; Resources</b>	<b>Dated:</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
<b>Subject: Appointment of Policy Leads for Climate Action and Sustainable Finance</b>	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	5, 6, 7, 10, 11
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>£N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of: Town Clerk</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author: Ben Dixon, Head of the Policy Unit, Office of the Policy Chairman</b>	

### **Summary**

Following advertisement for a Sustainability Policy Lead, two Expressions of Interest (Eols) were received. These Eols were assessed by an officer panel and subsequently reviewed by the Policy Leadership Team.

The panel found that both candidates were well qualified and met the assessment criteria outlined in the call for applications. Given the Corporation's substantial ambitions in this area, it is recommended to create two policy leads; one for Climate Action and one for Sustainable Finance in order to ensure coverage of this important policy area.

### **Recommendation(s)**

It is recommended that two policy lead roles are created, with appointments made as follows:

- Alderman Alison Gowman be appointed as Climate Action policy lead.
- Irem Yerdelen be appointed as Sustainable Finance policy lead.

### **Main Report**

1. At the October meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee, it was agreed to advertise to the whole Court the vacancy of the position of Sustainability Policy Lead.
2. A call for Expressions of Interest was sent on 23<sup>rd</sup> October; with an application deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> October.
3. Two Expressions of Interest were received by the deadline:

- Alderman Alison Gowman
- Irem Yerdelen

### **Initial Assessment Stage**

4. An officer panel carried out an initial assessment of the Expressions of Interest against the criteria identified:
  - a. Experience in Climate Action and/or Sustainability within Financial or Professional Services.
  - b. Understanding of Sustainable Finance or Infrastructure with or in COLC target markets.
5. The officer panel consisted of:
  - c. Benjamin Dixon, Head of the Policy Unit, Office of the Policy Chairman
  - d. Jennifer Beckermann, Executive Director and Private Secretary, Office of the Policy Chairman
  - e. Kerstin Matthias, Policy and Innovation Director
  - f. Kate Neale, Climate Action Programme Director

### **Officer Assessment**

6. Following assessment, the panel concluded that both candidates were well qualified and met the assessment criteria. They would each be well suited to make a significant contribution to the City Corporation's activities in advancing our position on Sustainability and Climate Action.
7. Alderman Alison Gowman's Eoldemonstrated extensive and deep experience against the criteria of involvement with climate action, both professionally and within the City Corporation.
8. The panel noted considerable involvement in the City of London's climate action and sustainability work over a sustained period. In particular, the panel noted her role in setting up the Green Finance Institute, founding the Livery Climate Action Group as well as considerable international experience such as participation and leadership at previous Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings.
9. Irem Yerdelen's Expression of Interest also demonstrated a high level of relevant professional experience, particularly in respect of risk and insurance. The panel noted considerable professional activity on sustainability, nature and climate disclosure.
10. Furthermore, the panel noted considerable activity within the City Corporation and its partners, including in supporting the implementation of the Climate Action Strategy and our activities with Heart of the City.

11. The officer panel concluded that both candidates have clear and significant understanding and knowledge of the field.
12. Both candidates have a clearly identifiable passion for the subject matter as well as considerable professional experience.
13. The panel noted that the two candidates had significantly different levels of experience as elected Members and the levels of experience demonstrated in the Expressions of Interest were reflective of this.

### **Next Steps**

14. The officer panel noted that:
  - The Sustainability portfolio as it stands is significant with several time-consuming responsibilities. The City Corporation has significant ambitions in the coming period, both in terms of hitting its climate action targets and in supporting and promoting UK sustainable finance.
  - Both candidates scored highly in the assessment.
  - One of the original intentions of the policy lead programme was to increase the involvement of Members from across the whole Court.
15. It is therefore recommended to create two policy lead positions as follows:
  - Climate Action policy lead, concentrating on supporting the Policy Chairman in delivery of the City Corporation's ambitious Climate Action Strategy.
  - Sustainable Finance policy lead, concentrating on supporting the Policy Chairman in promotion and development of the UK's green finance offer, in line with the City Corporation's Competitiveness Strategy.

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### **APPENDIX 1 – Alderman Alison Gowman Expression of Interest**

### **APPENDIX 2 – Irem Yerdelen Expression of Interest**