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| Committee(s) Policy & Resources Committee – for information | Dated: 14/12/2023 |
| Subject: Decisions taken under delegated authority or urgency powers | Public |
| Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly? | See Background Report |
| Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending? | See Background Report |
| If so, how much? | See Background Report |
| What is the source of Funding? | See Background Report |
| Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department? | See Background Report |
| Report of: Town Clerk | For Information |
| Report author: Chris Rumbles, Town Clerk’s Department | |

Summary

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 41(a) and 41(b).

Main Report

Urgent Decision: New Outside Body – Thames Estuary Growth Board (TEGB)

BACKGROUND:

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. It 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 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. The City Corporation has a strong and well-established interest in the Thames Estuary and the work of TEGB aligns strongly with its 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.

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 time, also

Chairman of Port Health & Environmental Services) at the request of the organisation. The 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 representative 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 nominates.

The Civic Affairs Sub-Committee considered this approach at its last meeting and approved *nem. con.* the proposals submitted. In the ordinary course of events, this proposal would have gone to the Policy & Resources Committee (P&R) and thereafter the Court of Common Council; however, due to some ambiguity in the wording of the Sub-Committee's terms of reference (which allow it to report directly to the Court on some matters, but not others), the submission deadline for the November meeting of P&R was missed. Officers have recognised the need to adjust the drafting of these terms of reference to clarify the position for future; however, in the interim, TEGB were keen for a decision to be made prior to mid-December, to allow for City Corporation participation at their December meeting. Delaying until December P&R would necessitate either the use of Court urgency procedures, or missing the opportunity to participate at December's meeting, neither of which were considered desirable. In the circumstances, given that Policy and Resources Committee had expressly delegated consideration of Outside Body matters such as this to its sub-committee, which had recommended approval of the proposals, and that the use of urgency procedures as an exception in this case would provide for timely submission to the full Court and all Members' deliberations, it was considered a pragmatic way forward.

REASON FOR URGENCY:

Civic Affairs Committee Sub-Committee agreed to the appointment of TEGB as an outside Body for the City Corporation, further endorsing the Member to sit on the TEGB to be the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee or their nominated Deputy. In looking to take this decision forward, there was a level of ambiguity within Civic Affairs Sub-Committee's terms of reference over whether it had the necessary authority to report direct to Court of Common Council. As such, in the interests of ensuring an appropriate level of transparency and that robust governance processes were being followed, it was agreed that the endorsement of Policy and Resources Committee would be sought in advance of seeking a decision from the Court of Common Council, in order to formalise the addition of TEGB to the list of Outside Bodies to which the City Corporation appoints.

TEGB is next due to meet in December. An urgent Policy and Resources Committee decision was therefore required to allow for a recommendation to be put forward to Court of Common Council on Thursday 7 December in looking to achieve City Corporation representation at the meeting.

There was potential reputational risk to the City Corporation in delaying until next year. The City of London Corporation is seen as an important stakeholder on this outside body, which has the Leaders of four local authorities as well as other strategic partners representing the Thames Estuary region.

Approval was therefore sought and granted by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee to: -

- Agreed to the City of London Corporation becoming a Corporate Member of the TEGB, and for that organisation to be deemed an Outside Body.
- Agreed 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.

In accordance with Standing Orders 41 (a) and 41 (b), Members are asked to note the recent decision taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

Copies of background papers concerning this decision are available from Chris Rumbles on request.

Contact:

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