

<b>Committee(s):</b> Policy & Resources Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
<b>Subject: Appointment of Policy Leads/Lead Members for 2024/25</b>	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	Diverse Engaged Communities Dynamic Economic Growth Vibrant Thriving Destination
<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: Deputy Town Clerk</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author: Benjamin Dixon, Office of the Policy Chairman</b>	

### Summary

This report asks for agreement to renew the Policy Lead/Member Lead subject areas for 2024/25 and sets out the process for Members to apply to fill the roles.

The report also recommends adjusting the topic areas that Lead Members focus on and providing more specific and succinct job descriptions and focus areas.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Agree to invite all Members to make an Expression of Interest for the following five Lead Members for 2024/25:
  - International markets, Innovation & Technology, SMEs, Sports Engagement and Resident Engagement.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. One of the outcomes of the Governance Review was endorsement for the principle of greater use of Lead Members (or 'rapporteurs') to complement the work of the Policy Chairman, making best use of the talent available across the Court of Common Council.
2. In October 2022, the Policy & Resources Committee appointed 6 Policy Leads for the following subject areas: Advanced Markets, High Growth Markets, SMEs, Innovation in Technology, Sustainability and Sports Engagement.
3. In December 2023, a Sustainable Finance Lead and a Climate Action Lead were appointed in place of the existing Sustainability Lead role.

4. The Policy Leads have no legal executive or decision-making power. Rather, the roles are intended to act in an advisory and facilitative capacity, strengthening collaboration between Members and Officers.

### **Current Position**

5. The Policy Lead roles have provided additional senior political capacity allowing the City Corporation to increase its impact through:
  - a. Formal representation with partners including Innovate Finance, Centre for Finance, Innovation & Technology, 3cl, Green Finance Institute and the City of London Chamber of Commerce.
  - b. Ad hoc representation through speaking engagements, on panels, seminars and articles.
6. The Sports Engagement and SME Lead roles have brought together officers, Members and partners to develop the City Corporation's new Sports Strategy and draft SME Delivery Plan.
7. The Policy Leads have also convened Members to provide input on specific items of policy development.

### **Proposals**

8. It is proposed to adjust to the name *Lead Member*, reflecting that the roles are primarily focussed on supporting delivery of policies and strategies which have already been agreed.
9. The Sustainable Finance and Climate Action roles are not due to come up for renewal until April 2025 as agreed by Members at Committee on 14 December 2023. As with the recommendation above, the role names will change from *Policy Lead* to *Lead Member* to standardise the language, reflecting the broader title change.
10. It is proposed that five Lead Member roles are advertised to the whole Court:

#### New or altered roles

- a. International Markets (merging the existing High Growth Markets and Advanced Markets roles).
- b. Resident Engagement

#### Continuing roles

- c. Innovation & Technology
- d. SMEs
- e. Sports Engagement

11. Lead Members will be asked to support the Policy Leadership Team with specific tasks within their respective portfolios. These are set out at Appendix 1.

12. New specific job descriptions for each role have been created at Appendix 2.

13. Existing Policy Lead/Lead Members will be required to reapply, should they wish to continue in post.
14. Those interested in the roles will be asked to provide a short Expression of Interest (maximum 250 words) demonstrating suitability for the roles.
15. The applications process will be as follows:
  - a. The role will be advertised to the Court.
  - b. Those wishing to apply are asked to submit expressions of interest, setting out relevant experience / skills against the relevant criteria.
  - c. Applications are reviewed by an assessment panel (comprised of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and Vice Chairs) supported with advice from officers, based on the job specification at appendix 2 and the criteria specification at Appendix 3 to identify a shortlist and optimal candidate.
  - d. The panel's recommendations for the roles are submitted to the Committee for endorsement.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

Strategic implications – The roles provide additional senior political representation to progress the City Corporation's Corporate Plan and strategies, particularly the Competitiveness Strategy.

Financial implications - None

Resource implications - None

Legal implications - None

Risk implications - There is always an inherent risk that, despite the individual Lead Member's best intentions, their interpretation of the Committee's wishes might not reflect accurately the majority view. However, the absence of any executive decision-making powers and the requirement for any and all Member decisions to continue to come to Committee in the usual way will mitigate against this risk and provide no greater risk than officers operating with lesser Member guidance or advice.

Equalities implications – Under the Equality Act 2010, all public bodies have a duty to ensure that when exercising their functions they have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and to take steps to meet the needs of people with certain protected characteristics where these are different from the needs of other people and encourage people with certain protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low. The proposals contained in this report do not have any potential negative impact on a particular group of people based on their protected characteristics and *could further improve the diversity of Members in external-facing roles.*

Climate implications - The proposals included in this paper would support the delivery of the Climate Action and Sustainability programme, by keeping those Lead Member roles, through additional strategic support and focus helping to drive positive outcomes.

Security implications - None

## **Conclusion**

16. Members are asked to approve advertising for the 5 Lead Member roles as set out in the report, enabling appointments to be made at the May meeting of the Committee.

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Lead Member focus areas.

Appendix 2 – Lead Member job descriptions

**Benjamin Dixon**

Head of the Policy Unit, Office of the Policy Chairman

E: [benjamin.dixon@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:benjamin.dixon@cityoflondon.gov.uk)