

Committee(s): Policy & Resources	Dated: 9 th May 2024
Subject: Appointment of Lead Members (2024/5)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	All
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Deputy Town Clerk	For Decision
Report author: David Mendoza-Wolfson, Policy Advisor, Office of the Policy Chairman	

Summary

At its April 2024 meeting, the Policy and Resources Committee agreed a number of changes to the Lead Member programme – changing the role title from Policy Lead, setting out new job descriptions and merging two of the previous roles into one new 'International Markets' role. An approach in respect of advertising and appointing to these roles was also endorsed.

Following advertisement for the Innovation & Technology, International Markets, Resident Engagement, SME, and Sport Lead Member roles, Expressions of Interest (Eols) were received from 12 candidates.

These Eols were assessed by a series of officer panels and subsequently reviewed by the Policy Leadership Team, in line with the process agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee. This report sets out the recommended appointments to the Lead Member roles, in accordance with the outcomes of this process.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee endorses the appointment of the following Members for the Lead Member roles:

- Deputy Madush Gupta is appointed Lead Member for Innovation and Technology
- Jason Groves is appointed Lead Member for International Markets
- Jacqui Webster is appointed Lead Member for Resident Engagement
- Paul Singh is appointed Lead Member for SMEs
- Deputy Edward Lord is appointed Lead Member for Sport.

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 six 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. In April 2024, the Policy & Resources Committee agreed to rename the roles *Lead Members* from Policy Leads and merged the Advanced Markets and High Growth Markets roles into one International Markets Lead Member position. Due to their recent appointment, a call for applications was not made for the Sustainable Finance and Climate Action Lead Member roles.
5. The Lead Members 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

6. As referenced above, at the April 2024 meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee, the Committee agreed:
 - a. To rename the *Policy Lead* roles as *Lead Member*
 - b. To support new job descriptions for each of these roles
 - c. To advertise to the Court a call for Expressions of Interest.
7. A call for Expressions of Interest was sent on 15th April, with an application deadline of 22nd October.
8. Expressions of Interest were received by the deadline from:
 - a. Innovation and Technology
 - i. Deputy Madush Gupta
 - ii. Florence Keelson-Anfu
 - b. International Markets
 - i. Deputy Rehana Ameer
 - ii. Alderman Prem Goyal
 - iii. Jason Groves
 - iv. Alderman Bronek Masojada

- c. Resident Engagement
 - i. Helen Fentimen
 - ii. Jacqui Webster
 - iii. Ceri Wilkins
- d. SMEs
 - i. Deputy Shравan Joshi
 - ii. Paul Singh
- e. Sport
 - i. Deputy Edward Lord

Assessment

9. An officer panel, comprised of officers within the relevant subject departments, carried out an initial assessment of the Expressions of Interest for each Lead Member role against the criteria identified.
10. These officer panels included:
 - a. Benjamin Dixon, Head of the Policy Unit
 - b. Bhakti Depala, Assistant Director (Partnership and Engagement)
 - c. David Mendoza-Wolfson, Policy Advisor
 - d. Jennifer Beckermann, Executive Director and Private Secretary
 - e. Judith Finlay, Director of Community & Children's Services
 - f. Kerstin Mathias, Policy and Innovation Director
 - g. Mark Gettleson, Head of Campaigns and Community Engagement
 - h. Simi Shah, Project Director
11. All the candidates were qualified, with at least one for each role demonstrating excellent suitability, reflecting the talent and expertise of the Court.
12. The assessments and Expressions of Interest were discussed by the Policy Leadership Team, including the Chair, Deputy Chair and two Vice-Chairs, who made the final selection.

Proposals

13. That the proposed appointments are endorsed by the Policy and Resources Committee for the Lead Member roles:
 - a. Deputy Madush Gupta is appointed Lead Member for Innovation and Technology
 - b. Jason Groves is appointed Lead Member for International Markets
 - c. Jacqui Webster is appointed Lead Member for Resident Engagement
 - d. Paul Singh is appointed Lead Member for SMEs
 - e. Deputy Edward Lord is appointed Lead Member for Sport.

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

14. Members are asked to endorse the appointment of the Lead Members set out in the recommendations.

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