

<b>Committee(s):</b> Policy and Resources – For Decision	<b>Dated:</b> 8/5/25
<b>Subject:</b> Lead Member Renewal (2025/26)	<b>Public report:</b> For Decision
<b>This proposal:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes</b></li> </ul>	All
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	No
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N/A
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	N/A
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	N/A
<b>Report of:</b>	Deputy Town Clerk
<b>Report author:</b>	David Mendoza-Wolfson

### Summary

This report asks for agreement to renew the Lead Member subject areas for 2025/26 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 Option B – to continue the Lead Member programme, sunsetting the International Markets portfolio, and all proposals as set out in paragraphs 10-18.
- Agree to invite all Members to make an Expression of Interest for the following six Lead Members for 2025/26:
  - Innovation & Technology, Sport, Resident Engagement, SMEs, Climate Action and Sustainable Finance.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. Lead Members were formed by the Policy and Resources Committee to support the work of the Policy Chairman, making best use of the talent available across the Court of Common Council, in July 2022.
2. In October 2022, the Policy & Resources Committee appointed 6 Lead Members.
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 position was re-titled from 'Policy Lead' to 'Lead Member' and Lead Members were appointed for the additional following portfolios: Innovation & Technology, International Markets, Resident Engagement, SME, and Sport Engagement.
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. The Lead Member roles have provided additional senior political capacity allowing the City Corporation to increase its impact through:
  - a. Formal representation with outside bodies
  - b. Ad hoc representation through speaking engagements, on panels, seminars and articles
  - c. Support Officers with political oversight
7. The view from Members and Officers is that the Lead Members have added value to the City Corporation.
8. The Policy Chairman delegates much of the outside body representation that he is asked to do by way of his role to Members, including Lead Members, as well as other Members who may be most appropriate for differing roles.

### **Options**

9. There are three viable options for the continuity of the Lead Member programme:
  - a. Continue the Lead Member programme as is
  - b. Continue the Lead Member programme, sunsetting the International Markets portfolio.
  - c. Discontinue the programme.

### **Proposals**

10. Given the recognised value added by the Lead Members, it is proposed that the programme should be continued, recognising that it is appropriate to review the need for each portfolio annually.
11. It is proposed to sunset the role of Lead Member for International Markets, recognising that work supporting the Financial and Professional Service sector and competitiveness, including international markets is increasingly undertaken by the

Policy Chairman. Following the election of the new policy leadership team, the intention is also for the Deputy Chairman to lead on some of the UK regional engagement on FPS.

12. It is proposed that six Lead Member roles are advertised to the whole Court:

Continuing roles

- a. Innovation & Technology
- b. Residential Engagement
- c. Climate Action
- d. Sustainable Finance
- e. SMEs
- f. Sport

13. 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.

14. Job descriptions for each role have been amended at Appendix 2.

15. Existing Lead Members will be required to reapply, should they wish to continue in post.

16. Those interested in the roles will be asked to provide a short Expression of Interest (maximum 250 words) demonstrating suitability for the roles.

17. As agreed by this Committee in 2024, the applications process is 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.
- d. The panel's recommendations for the roles are submitted to the Committee for endorsement at its June meeting.

18. Lead Members may be asked to represent the Policy Chairman on Outside Bodies and City Corporation forums. However, it is not proposed that each role will have set delegations – and delegations to these bodies will continue to be made to the most appropriate Member for the role. For instance, whilst the International Markets role is being sunsetted, the current Lead Member for the role will be asked to continue to Chair the High Growth Markets Board – a City Corporation forum – on behalf of the Policy Chairman. Similarly, the current Lead Member for Innovation and Technology will be asked to continue to represent the Policy Chairman on the Centre for Finance, Innovation and Technology's board for the time being to ensure continuity.

**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**

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

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Lead Member focus areas.

Appendix 2 – Lead Member job descriptions

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