

Committee: Policy and Resources	Date(s): 21 November, 2013	Item no.
Subject: Request for support to host London Councils' London Summit in 2014, 2015 and 2016		
Report of: Director of Public Relations	Public For Decision	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Summary</u></p> <p>This report proposes that the City of London Corporation hosts the annual London Councils' London Summit – the annual free conference for all local councillors, officers and Borough leaders in the capital – at Guildhall for the next three years (2014-2017); this year's Summit has already been arranged for Saturday 16 November, 2013, at Guildhall. The City Corporation would provide the venue and associated hire costs in return for appropriate branding opportunities, an opportunity for the Chairman to give a speech at the event, and for Members to attend the Summit. The London Councils' Summit accords well with the role of the City Corporation in promoting debate on key policy issues that affect the City and London. The Summit will facilitate high-level interaction with a number of the City Corporation's key audiences and stakeholders, as outlined in the <i>Communications Strategy 2013-2016</i>, and is well-aligned with wider economic development priorities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>Your Committee is recommended to agree that the City of London Corporation provides the venue for the conference for the next three years, paying a sum not exceeding £14,622 in 2014, £15,353 in 2015, and £16,120 in 2016 (that is, not exceeding £46,095 in total) for the hire of the Guildhall complex; these costs are to be met from the Committee's <i>Policy Initiatives Fund</i> for 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17, categorised under the <i>Events</i> section of the <i>Fund</i> and charged to City's Cash.</p>		

Background

1. London Councils is a cross party organisation committed to fighting for more resources for London and getting the best possible deal for London's 33 local authorities. London Councils lobbies the Government and others on behalf of their member councils, not just for a fair share of resources, but also to protect and enhance council powers to enable them

to do the best possible job for their residents and local businesses. They develop policy and encourage improvements to the services offered by London Boroughs.

2. The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee sits on the Executive Committee of London Councils in the prominent position of Vice Chair, along with Mayor Jules Pipe (Chair and Mayor of Hackney), Cllr Claire Kober (Deputy Chair and Leader of Haringey), Cllr Teresa O'Neill (Vice Chair and Leader of Bexley) and Cllr Ruth Dombey (Vice Chair and Leader of Sutton). The Policy Chairman is also a member of the London Councils Leaders' Committee which sits monthly to discuss issues of relevance and importance.
3. The London Councils' London Summit is an annual free conference formerly held at the QEII Conference Centre, Westminster and open to all London councillors, including Borough leaders, and Members of the City Corporation's Court of Common Council, as well as Borough Chief Executives. Over 300 guests attended the conference in 2012. The conference is a well-established fixture of London's local government calendar. It offers a platform for policy discussion, to hear keynote speeches and a unique opportunity to network with councillors from across London and key individuals in the public sector. For newer members it provides an opportunity further to develop their knowledge of local government, ensuring they have increased confidence to be effective in their role.
4. London Councils has been able to make this conference a free event for delegates in the past thanks to the support of the Leadership Centre for Local Government and the City of London Corporation; the City Corporation has supported the conference at a cost of £25,000 per annum since 2002. In return for this level of support, the City of London Corporation has benefitted from the opportunity for the Policy Chairman to speak at the conference or chair one of its breakout sessions; branding on all *London Summit* literature; a free exhibition stand; complimentary delegate places; and, an opportunity to include literature in the delegate packs.
5. Previous speakers at the conference have included Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government; the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson; Lord Deighton, the then Chief Executive of London 2012 and now Commercial Secretary to the Treasury; Sir Peter Hendy, Transport for London Commissioner; and Ian McPherson, Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. The conference held in 2012 saw a panel of experts from across the public service spectrum discuss pan-London issues including

housing, adult social care, town centre planning, and local authorities' role in education.

Proposal

6. It is proposed that the City of London Corporation continues to support the London Councils' London Summit for the next three years (2014-2017). However, mindful of the continuing economic situation, it is proposed that the City Corporation provides the Guildhall as the conference venue in lieu of a financial contribution to the event. This will reduce the cost of our sponsorship and deliver a number of benefits to both the City Corporation and London Councils.
7. The Guildhall will provide the venue for the conference using the following spaces: Great Hall for the main conference; the Old Library and Print Room for refreshments, networking, and exhibition space; the Chief Commoner's Parlour as a green room for speakers; the Livery Hall for potential breakout sessions; and, the Basinghall Suite as a prayer room. In addition, it will be necessary to hire the spaces on the Friday before each conference in order to allow corporate exhibitors and supporters to set up exhibition materials and the stage production.
8. Subject to the approval of the Chief Commoner, the Guildhall would be provided to London Councils on a 'City rate' basis. The 'cost' to the City of London Corporation would be in hire charges at a cost not exceeding £16,000 per annum (thereby allowing for the potential of a maximum 5% inflationary increase per annum in hire charges). These sums will be paid to the Remembrancer's Department for hire of the Guildhall Complex.

As a consequence, London Councils would finance all hospitality including catering, branding, set design and any audio visual equipment above and beyond the basic on-site provision. In order to cover these additional costs, it will be necessary for London Councils to charge exhibitors at the conference. London Councils would, therefore, be encouraged by the guaranteed support of the City Corporation to facilitate approaching other organisations for further financial support.

9. Providing the Guildhall as a venue for the conference would, in comparison to the sponsorship of the event in previous years, result in a saving to the Policy Initiatives' Fund of £28,000 over the three year period. Moreover, by providing Guildhall as a venue for the event, the City Corporation would still be the primary supporter of the London Summit and also, exclusively, its host. This will provide an opportunity

to bring senior politicians, council officers and policymakers into the City.

In return for the City Corporation's sponsorship, it would receive acknowledgement before and during the event as a sponsor; branding opportunities online, on publications and at the venue during the conference; the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee will give a speech to the conference; and, all Members of the Court of Common Council will be invited to attend the conference.

10. The London Councils' Summit accords well with the role of the City Corporation in promoting debate on key policy issues that affect the City and London. The Summit will facilitate high-level interaction with a number of the City Corporation's key audiences and stakeholders, as outlined in the *Communications Strategy 2013-2016*. In addition, the Summit aligns well with the City Corporation's strategy of using its resources to support London's communities, especially in neighbouring boroughs, and its wider economic development priorities as outlined in *The City Together Strategy: The Heart of a World Class City 2008-2014*.

Financial and Risk Implications

11. Although sponsorship is likely to be acquired from other sources for this event, the contribution of the Guildhall from the City Corporation will be intrinsic to the overall funding package and the success of the event. It is proposed that the cost of hiring the Guildhall complex, to be paid to the Remembrancer's Department, at a sum not exceeding £14,622 in 2014, £15,353 in 2015m £16,120 in 2016 (that is, not exceeding £46,095 in total) be met from the Committee's *Policy Initiatives Fund* for 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17, categorised under the *Events* section of the *Fund* and charged to City's Cash.
12. The current uncommitted balance available within your Committee's Policy Initiatives Fund for 2014/15 amounts to some £432,000, while substantial funds currently remain in the Fund in 2015/16 and 2016/17, prior to any allowance being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

Conclusion

13. The London Councils' Summit offers the City Corporation a prime opportunity to be seen as a strong supporter of London-wide government, to be prominently involved – through branding opportunities, speaking slots and the attendance of Members – in key discussions pertaining to the challenges facing, and future of local government in London, whilst

concomitantly showcasing the Guildhall and the Square Mile to key audiences.

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Contact:

Claire Holdgate

Events Manager

Public Relations Office

020 7332 3176

claire.holdgate@cityoflondon.gov.uk