

Committee:	Date:
Education Board	11 September 2014
Subject: City of London Scholarship to Commemorate the Irish State Visit 2014	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Summary	
<p>At its meeting on 3 July 2014 the Policy and Resources Committee noted the creation of a scholarship to commemorate the first visit by an Irish Head of State to the United Kingdom and agreed that the newly constituted Education Board would oversee the administration and governance of the scheme. This report outlines the Education Board's proposed role in its award.</p>	
Recommendation(s)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members are asked to note the report. 	

Main Report

Background

1. In April 2014, Irish President Michal D. Higgins became the first Irish Head of State to make a state visit to the United Kingdom. To mark the occasion – and in light of the City of London Corporation's important links with Northern Ireland through the Honourable Irish Society – it was announced that the City Corporation would establish a scholarship in the field of Anglo-Irish literature.
2. The criteria of the scheme were drawn up using existing best practice from similar schemes. The scholarship will be £25,000 per annum (covering both tuition and living expenses) and will be awarded on the basis of outstanding academic merit and potential.

Current Position

3. Following the scheme being announced in April 2014, officers are working to establish the scholarship with a view to the first scholar beginning their studies in September 2015. The Lord Mayor will be writing to Provosts of major Irish universities in September 2014 to publicise the scheme, in tandem with officers working with relevant embassies to further highlight the scholarship. A webpage will go live from October 2014 and applications will be accepted from January 2015.
4. An Officer Scholarship Panel will oversee the application process. It will consist of:
 - The Remembrancer
 - The Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor
 - Director of Community and Children's Services
 - Head of Town Clerk's Office
 - Assistant Town Clerk
 - Education Strategy Advisor
 - A leading Anglo-Irish Scholar

5. The Officer Group will meet in May of the awarding year to review applications and choose the successful candidate. A single candidate will be recommended to Members of the Education Board for decision. Following the decision, a report will be drafted for the Policy and Resources Committee for information.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

6. The Anglo-Irish Scholarship meets the strategic aim of *providing valued services to London and the nation* and the key policy priority of *increasing the impact of the City's cultural and heritage offer on the life of London and the nation* set out in the Corporate Plan 2013-17.
7. The Anglo-Irish Scholarship meets the strategic objectives to *promote and support excellent education and access to higher education* and to *explore opportunities to expand the City's education portfolio and influence on education throughout London* set out in the Education Strategy 2013-15.

Conclusion

8. This report outlines the proposed role of the Education Board in overseeing the Anglo-Irish scholarship approved by the Policy and Resources Committee on 3 July 2014 in order to highlight to members of the Board their role in its award.

Appendices

- None

Background Papers:

City of London Scholarship to Commemorate the Irish State Visit – Report of the Town Clerk and the Remembrancer to the Policy and Resources Committee – 3 July 2014

Alistair MacLellan

Town Clerk's Department

T: 0207 332 1416

E: alistair.macellan@cityoflondon.gov.uk