

Committee(s)	Dated:
Public Relations & Economic Development Sub (Policy & Resources) – for information	6 June 2016
Subject: Party conference activity, 2016	Public
Report of: Director of Economic Development	For Information
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Summary

The City of London Corporation is planning to hold private roundtables and dinners at the 2016 party conferences of the Liberal Democrats (19th September), Labour (26th September) and the Conservatives (3rd October). This helps maintain productive relationships with politicians from across the main parties and facilitate critical policy debates. This year, the roundtables will focus on skills and employability.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Main Report

Background

1. City of London Corporation attendance at the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative party conferences since 1994 has been an important way of maintaining contact with politicians representing national and local government and the opposition, and of being present at important policy debates.
2. At the Public Relations & Economic Development Sub Committee meeting on 18th February 2016, the Sub Committee agreed that the City Corporation should organise invitation-only roundtable events and invitation-only dinners at the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative party conferences.

Current Position

3. The Liberal Democrat party conference is taking place from 17th September to 20th September in Brighton. The City Corporation is organising a private roundtable event on employability on 19th September in the morning with the Centre Forum think tank, including guests from Parliament, local government, business and the education sector. On 19th September in the evening, the City Corporation will host a private dinner with guests from Parliament, local government and business invited along with Members and officers.

4. The Labour party conference is taking place from 25th September to 28th September in Liverpool. The City Corporation is organising a private roundtable event on the role of financial services in tackling youth unemployment on 26th September in the morning with the Smith institute, including guests from business, Parliament, local government and the third sector. On 26th September in the evening, the City Corporation will host a private dinner with guests from Parliament, the GLA, local government and business invited along with Members and officers.
5. The Conservative party conference is taking place from 2nd October to 5th October in Birmingham. The City Corporation is organising a private roundtable event on skills and financial services on 3rd October in the morning with the Bright Blue think tank, including guests from Government, local government, business and the education sector. On 3rd October in the evening, the City Corporation will host a private dinner with guests from Parliament, the GLA, local government and business invited along with Members and officers.
6. The Corporate Affairs team will also seek relevant speaking opportunities and opportunities for meetings for the Policy Chairman at all three conferences.

Conclusion

7. The roundtable events at these three party conferences will be an opportunity for the City Corporation to engage with senior politicians on policy issues which are of interest to the City. The City Corporation's dinners and other meetings will also help to maintain and build relationships with relevant politicians and stakeholders from each of the main parties.

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