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| <b>Item No.</b><br>N/a             | <b>Classification</b><br>Open | <b>Date:</b><br>5 February 2020                                     | <b>Decision Maker:</b><br>Leader of the Council |
| <b>Report title:</b>               |                               | Central London Forward (CLF) Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) approval |   |
| <b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b> |                               | All   |   |
| <b>From:</b>                       |                               | Stephen Gaskell, Head of Chief Executive's Office                   |   |

## RECOMMENDATION

1. The Leader of the Council approves the Central London Forward (CLF) Joint Venture Agreement (JVA), ensuring the council remains a member of the Central London Forward partnership for up to a further four years with membership fees costing a maximum of £40,000 a year.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. In 2007, Southwark Council joined with seven other central London councils to form Central London Forward (CLF), a partnership to provide a strategic voice for Central London. In 2018 a further two boroughs joined the partnership as full members, and two others as associate members. The City of London Corporation are the accountable body for the partnership, administering the governance and employing a number of staff to conduct work on behalf of the partnership. There is an annual subscription fee of £40,000 to be a full member of the partnership and contribute to the running costs.
3. A revised Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) is proposed between the CLF member boroughs from April 2020 to March 2024.
4. This report confirms Southwark Council's continued involvement in the CLF partnership for up to a further four years.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. In addition to Southwark, the current membership of CLF comprises:
  - Camden
  - City of London
  - Hackney
  - Islington
  - Kensington & Chelsea
  - Lambeth
  - Tower Hamlets
  - Wandsworth
  - Westminster
  - The two associate members are Haringey and Lewisham
6. CLF operates at a strategic level, seeking to influence regional and national policy makers on matters of mutual interest to the communities and businesses of central London. It does this through producing research, evidence and

analysis to develop and promote the case for the sub region. The main focus of the partnership is the promotion of local economic growth, employment, skills, infrastructure and housing.

7. It is in the interests of the Council and the residents of Southwark that the borough continues to participate in matters of strategic importance concerning central London. Southwark is a key central London borough, playing an active role in growing the London economy as a place where people live, work and visit. It is essential that the views and needs of our residents and employers are represented at a strategic level, particularly in relation to engagement with Government departments and the Mayor of London.
8. CLF produces and commissions research relevant to the economic development of the central London boroughs. This research and collective insight from all of the boroughs helps to inform the joint policy positions that are agreed. There is appropriate governance for the partnership through a committee of the Leaders of each member borough, supported by a similar committee of borough Chief Executives.
9. Over the last four years, CLF has effectively leveraged funding to deliver and commission a range of activities for the benefit of the member boroughs' residents. This includes £53m in funding from Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and European Social Fund (ESF) to fund Central London Works, which supports long-term unemployed residents into employment, and the £2m Construction Careers programme, supporting residents into jobs and apprenticeships in the construction industry.
10. The City of London Corporation act as the lead organisation for the partnership, administering the governance and employing a number of staff to conduct work on behalf of the partnership. There is an annual subscription fee of £40,000 to be a full member of the partnership and contribute to the running costs.
11. A Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) governs the partnership. The JVA was originally agreed in 2008, and was most recently varied in 2015. The existing JVA is due to expire in March 2020. A new JVA is therefore proposed to cover the next four years from April 2020. The draft JVA has been reviewed and agreed by the member boroughs' legal services departments.
12. It is proposed that Southwark Council continues to be a member of the Central London Forward partnership and appropriate resources are allocated to cover the cost of membership.

### **Policy implications**

13. The Council Plan 2018-22 sets out the council's overall policy framework. This plan describes the commitments, measures and milestones to achieve the Council vision of a fairer future for all. It was adopted by Council Assembly in November 2018 and provides a council wide plan for delivery across all services to 2022. Any work arising from the Central London Forward partnership will need to be cognisant of the Council Plan and relevant supporting plans and strategies.

### **Community impact statement**

14. This report asks that the Leader agrees a new Joint Venture Agreement to continue Southwark's membership of the Central London Forward partnership.

The work of the partnership focusses on areas of strategic importance for the twelve member boroughs and our residents, specifically in terms of local economic growth, employment, skills, infrastructure and housing.

15. Specific initiatives delivered by CLF include the £53m Central London Works programme, which supports long-term unemployed residents into employment, and the £2m Construction Careers programme, supporting residents into jobs and apprenticeships in the construction industry.
16. More broadly, as a cross-borough initiative, the work promotes improved partnership working across the councils and with other important stakeholders such as London Councils and the GLA.
17. Membership of CLF will ensure that the Council can continue to lobby for and influence inclusive economic growth and reduce inequality at the key strategic level in London.

#### **Financial implications**

18. There is an annual subscription fee of £40,000 to be a full member of the CLF partnership and contribute to the running costs. The cost of membership of CLF is currently met from the budget of the Chief Executives Office.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

##### **Director of Law and Democracy**

19. The Director of Law and Democracy notes the contents of this report and confirms that under Part 3B of Southwark's Constitution, the Leader has particular responsibility for strategic partnership and relationship with government and the Mayor of London. The partnership with CLF to provide a strategic voice for Central London is within the remit of the Leader's responsibility. There is no specific legal implication arising from this report.

##### **Strategic Director of Finance and Governance**

20. This report is requesting the Leader of the Council to approve the Central London Forward (CLF) Joint Venture Agreement (JVA), ensuring the council remains a member of the Central London Forward partnership for up to a further four years with membership fees costing a maximum of £40,000 a year.
21. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that the annual cost of the membership will be contained within the departmental budgets.
22. Staffing and any other costs connected with this report to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

| Background Papers | Held At | Contact |
|-------------------|---------|---------|
| None              |         |         |

## APPENDICES

| No.  | Title |
|------|-------|
| None |       |

## AUDIT TRAIL

|  |   |                          |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| <b>Lead Officer</b>  | Stephen Gaskell, Head of Chief Executive's Office                       |                          |
| <b>Report Author</b>   | Danny Edwards, Strategy & Partnerships Manager, Chief Executives Office |                          |
| <b>Version</b>   | Final   |                          |
| <b>Dated</b>   | 05 February 2020  |                          |
| <b>Key Decision</b>  | No  |                          |
| <b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>              |   |                          |
| <b>Officer Title</b>   | <b>Comments Sought</b>  | <b>Comments Included</b> |
| Director of Law and Democracy  | Yes   | Yes                      |
| Strategic Director of Finance and Governance   | Yes   | Yes                      |
| <b>Cabinet Member</b>  | Yes   | Yes                      |
| <b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team/Community Council/Scrutiny Team</b> | 5 February 2020   |                          |