

Committee(s)	Dated:
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee	9 October 2018
Subject: Corporate Affairs Update	Public
Report of: Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	For Information
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Summary

This report has been prepared to update Members on key elements of the Corporate Affairs team's activity in support of the City of London Corporation's external political engagement and corporate communications.

The updates covered in this report span the period since the last meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee on 3 September 2018 until 25 September. Updates within the period of 26 September and 9 October have, at the time of writing, yet to take place, and have therefore been listed as planned activities.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

1. The Corporate Affairs update is presented thematically.

Domestic Engagement

Liberal Democrat party conference

2. On 16 September, the Policy Chairman met with Caroline Pidgeon AM, Member of the London Assembly, at Liberal Democrat party conference, where issues such as Brexit, the apprenticeships levy, London's transport infrastructure needs, and the importance of promoting London were discussed.
3. On 17 September, the Corporate Affairs team organised a private roundtable with the Social Market Foundation on innovation and inclusion in the financial services sector. The guest speaker was Baroness Susan Kramer, Liberal Democrat spokesperson on Treasury and Economic Affairs.
4. On 17 September, the Policy Chairman spoke at the Liberal Democrats Business Lunch alongside Jo Swinson MP, Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs. The Policy Chairman's speech focused on the implications of Brexit on the City,

digital innovation in Artificial Intelligence, the importance of Fintech to the City, and the broader economic challenges facing the national economy.

5. On 17 September, the Corporate Affairs team organised a private drinks reception and dinner at Liberal Democrat party conference. The theme of the dinner was 'City, Capital and Country: the Future of London and the Regions' with Tim Farron MP, Liberal Democrat spokesperson for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, being the guest speaker and the the Policy Chairman, providing remarks along these lines. The Policy Chairman also emphasised the importance of resolving Brexit-related issues concerning contract continuity. A number of other Liberal Democrat politicians, senior local government officials, and senior industry figures were also present.

Labour party conference

6. On 23 September, the Policy Chairman met with Jonathan Reynolds MP, Shadow Economic Secretary to the Treasury, where both parties discussed the current status of Brexit negotiations and the Institute for Public Policy Research's Commission on Economic Justice. Jonathan expressed interest in the City Corporation's report into improving the UK's visa application system, as well as issues relating to the Apprenticeships Levy survey and Green Finance.
7. On 23 September, the Policy Chairman met with Stephen Timms MP, member of the Select Committee on Exiting the European Union, where both parties discussed the current status of Brexit negotiations. The Policy Chairman also explained the City Corporation's priorities in other areas such as digital innovation, arts and culture, as well as matters related to Stephen's East Ham constituency.
8. On 23 September, the Policy Chairman spoke with Conor McGinn where the latter expressed his interest in the City Corporation's relationship with Belfast specifically and Northern Ireland more generally.
9. On 23 September, the Policy Chairman attended a private dinner, organised and hosted by Prospect Magazine, alongside Jonathan Reynolds MP and Peter Dowd MP, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, as well as senior industry figures. Matters discussed included the importance of a flexible immigration policy, the need to invest in development of skills, and the importance of an effective nationwide regional policy.
10. On 24 September, the City Corporation, together with the Fabian Society, organised a private roundtable discussion on the importance of arts and culture to local economic growth. The guest speaker was Kevin Brennan MP, Shadow Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism, while Tracy Brabin MP and Ian Lucas

MP, Member of the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, were also in attendance.

11. On 24 September, the Policy Chairman attended the Business Forum at Labour party conference, where private roundtables and question and answer sessions were held with the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, John McDonnell MP; the Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, Keir Starmer MP; and the Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Rebecca Long-Bailey MP.
12. On 24 September, the Corporate Affairs team hosted a private drinks reception and dinner with UK Finance, a trade association representing the UK's financial and professional services, which brought senior national, local and regional politicians from the Labour party together with policymakers, and industry figures. The guest speaker for this event was Barry Gardiner MP, Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade, while the Policy Chairman and Stephen Jones, CEO of UK Finance, also provided some remarks.
13. On 25 September, the Policy Chairman met with Stephen Kinnock MP, Member of the Exiting the European Union Select Committee, where both parties discussed the status of Brexit negotiations.
14. On 25 September, the Policy Chairman attended the Bloomberg Business Lunch. Alongside senior industry figures, also in attendance were Keir Starmer, Shadow Foreign Secretary, Emily Thornberry MP, as well as other representatives of the Shadow Cabinet.

Conservative party conference

15. On 30 September, the Policy Chairman is due to attend a drinks reception where the guest speaker will be the Home Secretary, Sajid Javid MP.
16. On 1 October, a private roundtable on the future of the financial services, organised by the City Corporation in partnership with the Centre for Policy Studies, will take place. The guest speaker will be the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, John Glen MP. Moreover, in addition to various senior industry representatives, Bim Afolami MP will also be participating.
17. On 1 October, an open fringe event on the future of international trade, organised by the City Corporation in partnership with Chatham House, will take place. The guest speaker is Nicky Morgan MP, Chair of the Treasury Select Committee.
18. On 1 October, the Policy Chairman will hold private meetings with Bim Afolami MP, Stephen Hammond MP, and the Minister at the Department for Exiting the European Union, Robin Walker MP.

19. On 1 October, the Corporate Affairs team in partnership with UK Finance will be hosting a private drinks reception and dinner, bringing together senior Conservative politicians at local, regional and national level with policymakers and senior industry figures. The guest speaker for this event is Sir Graham Brady MP.

Business engagement

20. On 2 October, the Policy Chairman is scheduled to attend a private roundtable organised by TheCityUK with John McDonnell MP.

Scottish National Party conference

21. Between 8 and 9 October, the Policy Chairman will be attending the Scottish National Party conference.

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