

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee	14 November 2018
<b>Subject:</b> Parliamentary Team update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Paul Double, City Remembrancer	<b>For Information</b>
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### Summary

This report has been prepared to update Members on the main elements of the Parliamentary Team's activity in support of the City of London Corporation's political and parliamentary engagement.

This report spans the period since the last meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee on 9 October.

Parliament had a short recess from 7-9 November.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

### Main Report

#### Legislation

1. Active engagement on the Agriculture Bill has focused on the City's careful stewardship of its open spaces and the Bill's proposal to place greater emphasis on landscape management. A submission has been made to a Public Bill Committee. City Corporation interest relates to future funding for sympathetic and delicate stewardship of land. It is important that any new measures continue funding for this type of high-quality management of the landscape as it promotes care for ecologically important areas, land heritage and sensitive sites.

#### Select Committees

2. Arrangements were made, in liaison with the EDO Regulatory Affairs team, for the Policy Chairman's appearance as keynote speaker at a House of Lords Brexit and financial services briefing session, hosted by Lord Kerslake (Crossbench). The session was attended by two dozen cross-party peers.
3. Letters were drafted for the Policy Chairman to send to relevant Select Committee Chairs to provide an update on the City Corporation's Brexit positioning, including

'cliff-edge' issues. This has prompted requests for further roundtable briefing from the City Corporation from the Lords EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee.

4. A written response has been submitted for a Home Affairs Committee inquiry on 'Modern Slavery', in liaison with the responsible procurement and City Bridge Trust teams.
5. The Office helped prepare Commander Karen Baxter of the City of London Police in her appearance before the House of Lords Bribery Act 2010 Committee to answer questions on written evidence submitted earlier this year.

### **All-Party Parliamentary Groups**

6. Arrangements were made for the Lord Mayor's appearance before the India APPG on 16 October, reporting back on his recent visit and UK-India collaboration on fintech. The meeting was chaired by Virendra Sharma MP (Lab), and other guest speakers included Charanjeet Singh, Deputy High Commissioner for India, and Mark Slaughter, Director General for Investment, DIT.
7. The Office arranged a parliamentary breakfast roundtable with the APPG for Africa on 23 October, when the Lord Mayor was the keynote speaker, alongside African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry, H.E. Albert Muchanga. The event was chaired by Baroness Northover (Lib Dem), Trade Envoy for Angola and Zambia.
8. Initial contact has been made with a new APPG focusing on the Belt and Road Initiative and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, with arrangements made for Asia Special Adviser Sherry Madera to meet with APPG Chair Faisal Rashid MP (Lab).
9. A member of the team attended a London APPG meeting with London Minister Jo Johnson where he mentioned his regret at the delay to Crossrail but sought to reassure guests that funding was in place to ensure its completion. He noted progress on the third runway at Heathrow.
10. The Office covered a meeting of the Fintech APPG at which the 'open banking for good' project was launched, intended to improve financial capacity for the financially disadvantaged, which relies on open banking rules to allow tech firms to access financial information. As the APPG's project develops, the City Corporation may wish to engage on points of interest, for instance in relation to any activities supported by City Bridge Trust.
11. Preparations are underway for a joint APPG for Financial Crime-City of London Police online fraud campaign drop in session for MPs.

### **Debates and Briefings**

12. Briefing was provided to peers for a debate in the Lords on music education in schools, raising concerns expressed by GSMD about the impact of the EBacc performance measure.

13. Peers were also provided with a briefing for a debate on the impact of Brexit on the arts, raising concerns about recruitment to higher education, working practices, collaboration and loans, and culture and tourism.
14. The Parliamentary Team, in liaison with Corporate Affairs, provided an internal briefing on the day of the Budget, through a Public Policy Bulletin, and a detailed analysis as an annex to the weekly Parliamentary Brief.
15. A background briefing was provided in advance of short question in the House of Lords on the UK as a global financial centre.
16. The Office provided support for the Policy Chairman's meeting with Tom Brake MP, Lib Dem Brexit Spokesperson, to discuss the ongoing EU-UK negotiations.

### **GLA and the Regions**

17. A City Corporation report on global investment was sent to a number of members and officers at the GLA, including Susan Hall, Chair of the GLA Economy Committee, and Nathan Davies, the lead Economy Researcher in the Mayor's Office.
18. The report on global investment was also shared with the Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee in the Scottish Parliament.

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