

Committee(s)	Dated:
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee	12 December 2018
Subject: Parliamentary Team update	Public
Report of: Paul Double, City Remembrancer	For Information
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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 14 November.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

1. At the time of writing, the Government has suffered three defeats on votes in the Commons (including on the disclosure of the Attorney General's legal advice and on the contempt of Parliament). As the situation is moving so quickly, reports on the parliamentary proceedings are being distributed to PRED Members after each sitting of the debate on the withdrawal deal. In addition, Public Policy Bulletins have been issued, in conjunction with the Corporate Affairs Team, following significant statements from the Prime Minister to the House of Commons. An oral update will be provided at the next meeting of the Committee.

Legislation

2. The Financial Services (Implementation of Legislation) Bill was introduced by Lord Bates. The Bill will provide the Government with the power to implement and make changes to "in flight" files of financial services legislation after the UK's withdrawal from the European Union in a no-deal scenario. The Bill contains a list of specified EU legislation to which this power, which has a 'sunset clause' of two years after exit day, can apply. This legislation follows probing amendments tabled to the EU (Withdrawal) Bill, now Act, by Justice Committee Chair Bob Neill (Con), and supported by the City Corporation, covering the domestication of 'prospective' legislation. The Bill will have its second reading (and first day of debate) on 4 December.

Debates and Briefings

3. Ahead of the withdrawal agreement 'economy day' debate, a parliamentary briefing was sent to all MPs, and Peers on the Speaker's List, regarding the cliff edge risks of a no deal Brexit, with several favourable responses. The City Corporation-PwC report on Total Tax Take was also highlighted in the covering note.
4. The Office provided support for the Policy Chair's meeting with Nicky Morgan MP (Con), Treasury Select Committee Chair, to discuss the EU-UK negotiations, and in particular cliff-edge issues and the recent City Corporation-EY report on visa processes.
5. The Parliamentary Team, in liaison with Corporate Affairs and EDO, have engaged with several MPs that represent constituencies where there are significant numbers of FPS jobs, to highlight the necessary 'no deal' contingency planning needed for the sector. This is in addition to wide circulation to a parliamentary audience of the recent 'Brexit: Continuity of Cross-Border Financial Contracts' report.
6. In particular, the Policy Chair has held follow up meetings and phone calls with: Vicky Ford MP (Con, Chelmsford), Louise Ellman MP (Lab, Liverpool Riverside), Kirsty Blackman MP (SNP, Aberdeen North), Jim Fitzpatrick MP (Lab, Poplar and Limehouse), and has a meeting scheduled with Greg Hands MP (Con, Chelsea and Fulham). The Policy Vice-Chair Tom Sleight met with Alison Thewliss MP (SNP, Glasgow Central), in the Policy Chair's stead.
7. A background briefing was provided to Peers in advance of a separate debate in the House of Lords on the withdrawal agreement and political declaration, which highlighted the risks of 'no deal' and planning needed to avoid Brexit 'cliff-edges'. Quoting the Policy Chair, Baroness Hayter, Labour's Lords Brexit Spokesperson, noted that 'no deal' "would be in nobody's interests".
8. Following a City Corporation meeting in the House of Commons that examined the availability of talent post Brexit, one of the guests, Patrick Grady MP (SNP) requested a briefing linked to a Commons adjournment debate on UK Entry Visas. In the debate, Grady highlighted the imminent publication of the City Corporation-EY report and called on the Government to take note of its recommendations.
9. A briefing was provided to Jonathan Djanogly MP (Con), Chair of the APPG on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, and Bob Neill MP, for a debate on legal services post-Brexit. Neill noted that a "swift and clear" transition agreement would be important not just to give certainty to law firms and their ability to continue operations, but also to ensure "contractual continuity" for clients and enforceability of contracts and judgments in commercial and other matters. He asked the Minister to consider suggestions from the City Corporation and TheCityUK in relation to "failsafe devices" – mechanisms that could be introduced "in parallel" while seeking approval of the withdrawal agreement and entry into a transition period.
10. A report outlining the City Corporation's support for financial and professional services was provided to Andrea Jenkyns MP (Con) in advance of her debate on 'supporting British exports'.

11. A briefing was provided to Baroness Neville-Rolfe (Con) and other Peers for a debate on plastics and recycling. The briefing highlighted the City Corporation's 'Plastic Free City' initiative.
12. The City Corporation-PwC 2018 Total Tax Take report was circulated for information to the Treasury Select Committee and APPG for Financial Markets and Services.

Select Committees

13. The Remembrancer's Office submitted evidence to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee's inquiry into 'Global Britain and South America'. The submission discussed the opportunities for the financial and professional services sector in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, concluding that the UK could draw on the expertise found in London to position itself as the region's partner of choice for the sector. Green Finance and FinTech were highlighted as particular areas of opportunity. The submission emphasised the City Corporation's engagement with the region, noting that a Lord Mayoral visit to Brazil, Chile and Peru had taken place earlier this year, and that visits to Mexico, Brazil and Colombia were scheduled for the near future.

Other parliamentary activity

14. The Office facilitated, in conjunction with EDO, for the Policy Chair's attendance as a guest speaker alongside Ian Robinson, Partner, Fragomen LLP, at an IPT event, in partnership with the City Corporation, on 'skills post-Brexit'. The City Corporation's report with EY on visas was trailed. The meeting was chaired by Bob Neill MP.
15. At a City Corporation joint event with the Industry and Parliament Trust, MPs and Peers heard from Commander Karen Baxter, National Police Coordinator for Economic Crime at the City Police about work to tackle fraud and support UK Business. Catherine McGrath, Managing Director of Transaction Banking at Barclays also spoke. The meeting was chaired by Conservative MP Vicky Ford.
16. In a linked event, the Office provided logistical support for a joint APPG for Financial Crime-City of London Police 'Christmas campaign drop in session' for MPs. The event was well attended and provided the Police with a platform to raise awareness about online fraud and promote methods of prevention for MPs and their constituents.
17. Following circulation of the City Corporation's Digital Skills Strategy to several interested MPs, initial discussions have been held with the Secretariat for a new APPG on Digital Skills, to be chaired by Julie Elliot MP (Lab). The Group is seeking an additional sponsor for a programme that will begin in January 2019, and will examine improvements needed to the UK's digital skills market. The Group will also have a strong focus on support for social mobility.

GLA and the Regions

18. Members and officers of the London Assembly were provided with the City Corporation's report on building a world-class visa system, *Streamlining Success*.
19. Ahead of a debate to approve the Mayor's draft Economic Development Strategy, London Assembly Members were provided with a short briefing which drew upon the Corporation's consultation response to highlight policies of interest to the City in the Strategy, including support for 'key sectors' such as financial services and culture and tourism, continued access to skilled workers, and support for SMEs.
20. The updated Strategy was approved by the Assembly and has been published on the GLA website. The Strategy, along with other documents such as the Consultation Report, can be found here - <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/business-and-economy/economic-development-strategy>.
21. The Office provided support for a meeting between City Police Assistant Commissioner Alistair Sutherland and Assembly Member Tony Devenish, which focused on the working relationship and close cooperation between the City of London Police, Metropolitan Police and British Transport Police.
22. The report on building a world-class visa system was also shared with the Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee in the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly's Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee.

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