

Committee(s)	Dated:
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee	8 January 2019
Subject: Corporate Affairs Update	Public
Report of: Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	For Information
Report author: Meghan Green, Corporate Affairs Officer	

Summary

This report provides a monthly update of the Corporate Affairs team's activities, supporting the City Corporation's strategic political engagement.

The Corporate Affairs team coordinates and organises the City Corporation's political engagement and seeks to support both Officers and Members in its delivery, with a particular focus on the activity undertaken by the Policy Chair and Lord Mayor.

The activities documented in this report focus largely on those lead by the Corporate Affairs team. Activities undertaken in partnership with other teams and departments are also included and have been appropriately termed.

The timeframe of this report spans the period lapsed between the previous and current meetings of this Sub Committee.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note this report.

Main Report

Strategic Objectives/engagement

1. Based on developments in the domestic political and economic landscape and in line with the City Corporation's corporate priorities, the Corporate Affairs team has focused its activity in the following areas:

Brexit

2. Although the Government has now delayed the Meaningful Vote, the Corporate Affairs team has worked under the assumption that the vote could be called at any time and has therefore examined all eventualities. The team has:

- a) Continued to monitor latest political developments in the UK and the European Union;
- b) Considered and prepared for various outcomes of the Meaningful Vote when put before the Commons;
- c) Contributed to Brexit updates for the Policy Chair and, working with the Remembrancer's office, assisted in briefing Parliamentarians on cliff-edge risks;
- d) Drafted the speech for the Policy Chair ahead of the London & Berlin Chambers of Commerce Dialogue on Brexit and attended the discussion.

Domestic Political Engagement

3. Productive dialogue between the City Corporation and key decision-makers on matters of mutual relevance is a key aim of the political engagement undertaken by Corporate Affairs. To this end, the Corporate Affairs team has:
 - a) Organised and prepared briefings for meetings and other engagements between the Policy Chair and senior politicians at local and national level;
 - b) Organised and prepared briefings for meetings and other engagements between the Policy Chair and Members of Parliament;
 - c) Contributed to briefings and speeches for the Lord Mayor's engagements with senior politicians;
 - d) Monitored developments in public policy matters of importance to the City Corporation;
 - e) Held internal meetings with the Economic Development Office on how best to take forward the Regional Strategy so the Lord Mayor's engagements are in synergy with that of the Policy Chair.
 - f) The Policy Chair was approached by Hamish Sandison, Chair of Labour Business, in early November to see if the City Corporation would like to sponsor a table at the Labour Business Dinner. The Dinner took place on 6 December. This served as a good opportunity for the City Corporation to build on conversations with leading Labour figures and ensure our views on key business matters were relayed.

London – Local engagement and London promotion

4. The Corporate Affairs team seeks to develop and encourage City Corporation engagement with the rest of London beyond the Square Mile. To this end, the Corporate Affairs team has:
 - a) Organised meetings with London borough leaders on topics such as our cultural and heritage assets;
 - b) Drafted briefings and speeches for the Policy Chair's engagements with London Borough Leaders;
 - c) Organised a meeting and networking event with Islington Council as part of an ongoing partnership with the borough;
 - d) Organised a visit for the Policy Chair to the London Borough of Bexley;
 - e) Prepared for the London Government Dinner hosted by the Lord Mayor at Mansion House (guests, speeches and gifts);
 - f) Collaborated with the Centre for London on its report on London's relationship with other regions in the UK.

Party Conferences 2019

5. The Corporate Affairs team has taken initial steps in organising the City Corporation's presence at party conferences in 2019. The team has:
 - a) Researched and secured accommodation;
 - b) Researched and secured appropriate venues for the Corporation's flagship evening event;
 - c) Begun to organise recces to these venues with a view to carrying out these site visits in early 2019.

Think Tanks

6. As part of our ongoing engagement with think tanks, the Corporate Affairs team has:
 - a) Held ad hoc meetings with the think tanks, Policy Exchange, WIG, Reform and Bright Blue, in order to discuss the merits of corporate membership and future partnership opportunities;
 - b) Discussed the upcoming *Women in Finance Charter Annual Review*, of which the City Corporation is a signatory, alongside New Financial.

Overall Activities

7. The Corporate Affairs team's core activities in delivering the City Corporation's strategic political engagement include:
 - a) Ensuring senior City Corporation representatives are meeting with relevant lawmakers and policymakers on issues of pertinence to the organisation;
 - b) Coordinating high-level engagement between senior City Corporation representatives and senior political figures at a national, regional and local level;
 - c) Maintaining and developing partnerships with think-tanks from across the political spectrum;
 - d) Organising the City Corporation's annual Party Conference activity;
 - e) Organising bilateral and multilateral engagements between senior City Corporation representatives and Government Ministers;
 - f) Participating in and contributing to all briefings for senior Members and Officers in their external engagements;
 - g) Drafting speeches for the Policy Chair, Deputy Chair, and Vice Chairs;
 - h) Reviewing and liaising over speeches for the Lord Mayor;
 - i) Collating and reviewing notes from meetings and engagements held by senior Members and Officers with external figures.

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APPENDIX

ENGAGEMENTS

Category	Type	Attendee(s)	Date	Contribution
Business / Government	Bloomberg Dinner	Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP , Chancellor of the Exchequer; Vilius Šapoka , Ministry of Finance, Republic of Lithuania; Peter Grauer , Chairman, Bloomberg	10/12/2018	Briefing: Representative Lord Mayor Alderman Sir Alan Yarrow
Business	Law Society President welcome dinner	Simon Davis , Vice President, Law Society	10/12/2018	Speech: Policy Chair
Business	<i>Japan Financial Dialogue</i>	John Glen MP , Economic Secretary to the Treasury	11/12/2018	Speech and briefing: Policy Chair
Business	<i>London & Berlin Chambers of Commerce Inter-Chamber Dialogue on Brexit</i>	Rajesh Agrawal , Deputy Mayor of London	11/12/2018	Speech: Policy Chair
Business	Trade Associations Roundtable	Allen Simpson , London and Partners	11/12/2018	Speech: Policy Chair
Business	100% Club Roundtable and Reception	Rosemary Martin , General Counsel and Company Secretary, Vodafone	12/12/18	Briefing and speech: Policy Chair
Local Government	CoLC and London Borough of Islington partnership event	Cllr Richard Watts , Leader of Islington Council	13/12/18	Organisation, speech and briefing: Policy Chair
Parliament	Meeting	Emma Little-Pengelly MP , DUP Member of Parliament	17/12/18	Briefing: Policy Chair
Parliament	Meeting	Rt Hon Lord Gummer of Deben and Dom de Ville , Senior Consultant, Sancroft	18/12/2018	Briefing: Policy Chair
Local Government	Visit to Bexley	Hosted by Cllr Teresa O'Neill , Bexley Council Leader	19/12/2018	Organisation and briefing: Policy Chair
Charity	Concert and Dinner	Hosted by British Red Cross at St. Paul's Cathedral	20/12/18	Organisation: Policy Chair

Parliament	Meeting	Nick Boles MP , Member of Parliament for Grantham and Stamford	8/1/2019	Organisation and briefing: Policy Chair
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