

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee	5 February 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Corporate Affairs Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Jan Gokcen, 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 Members and Officers 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. Following the Meaning Vote in Parliament on the Government's Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration on the future relationship between the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU), the Corporate Affairs team:
  - a. Continued to monitor latest political developments in the UK and EU;
  - b. Evaluated the various possible outcomes following the Withdrawal Agreement's rejection by Members of Parliament;

- c. Contributed to Brexit updates for the Policy Chair and attended the Remembrancer's Offices' briefing of Parliamentarians on the cliff-edge risks of a no deal Brexit;
- d. Worked across the City Corporation's various departments to ensure all Brexit-related engagement with the Government is coherently organised and strategically conducted;
- e. Alongside the Media Team, reviewed the Brexit contingency plans of other City Corporation departments.

### **London – Local engagement and London promotion**

3. 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:
  - a. Contributed to the preparations and organisation of the London Government Dinner, including the preparation of a gift to all attendees, reviewing the Lord Mayor's speech, reviewing the table plan and briefing the Policy Chair and other Members and Officers on issues related to local government and industry in London;
  - b. Continued to develop work on a London Borough engagement programme for the Policy Chair;
  - c. Organised and briefed the Policy Chairman and Town Clerk for a meeting with Cllr Clare Coghill, Leader of Waltham Forest, and Martin Esom, Chief Executive of Waltham Forest Council, concerning Waltham Forest's status as the London Borough of Culture in 2019, New Spitalfields Market and Whipps Cross Hospital;
  - d. Attended a meeting between the Policy Chair and the Chairman of Port Health and Environmental Services with Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy;
  - e. Attended and briefed the Policy Chair ahead of the Wider South East Summit. This was held at City Hall and is an annual gathering of local authority representatives across South-East England. Issues such as achieving sustainable growth and speaking with one voice as a region were discussed;
  - f. Created and maintained a document covering the position of London Boroughs on a second referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union, ahead of Court of Common Council on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018;
  - g. Organised and briefed the Policy Chairman for a meeting with Cllr Jas Athwal, Leader of Redbridge Council;
  - h. Briefed the Policy Chair ahead of and drafted the speech for the Policy Chair's remarks at the launch of the Centre for London think tank's report on 'London and the UK'.

### **Domestic Political Engagement**

4. A key aim of the political engagement organised and undertaken by the Corporate Affairs team is to foster productive dialogue between the City Corporation and key decision-makers in government – at local, regional and national levels. To this end, the City Corporation:

- a. Drafted the Policy Chair's remarks at the Freedom ceremony of Business and Industry Minister Richard Harrington MP;
- b. Organised a meeting between, and drafted the briefing for, the Policy Chair and Housing Minister Kit Malthouse MP;
- c. Drafted the Policy Chair's remarks for the Belfast City Council reception;
- d. Held internal discussions on, and began preparations for, the Policy Chair's visit to Cardiff, as part of the Corporation's regional strategy;
- e. In conjunction with colleagues in the Department for Built Environment, begun preparations for a roundtable discussion on improving the efficiency of freight movement across London.

### **International Engagement**

5. Where relevant, the Corporate Affairs team assists the City Corporation's overseas engagements, such as those undertaken by the Policy Chair and Lord Mayor. To this end, the Corporate Affairs team:
  - a. Drafted the Policy Chair's speaking remarks given at fringe events and private gatherings at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland;
  - b. Drafted the Policy Chair's speaking remarks given various engagements during the visit to India.

### **Think Tanks**

6. As part of the City Corporation's engagement with think tanks, the City Corporation:
  - a. Met with the Social Market Foundation and the Institute for Government to discuss possible partnership opportunities in the year ahead;
  - b. Met with Chatham House to discuss the City Corporation's corporate membership;
  - c. Met with the Vice-Chancellor of the London Metropolitan University to discuss possible partnership opportunities.

### **Party Conference**

7. In preparation of the City Corporation's attendance at the 2019 party conferences, the Corporate Affairs team:
  - a. Visited event venues in Brighton, where the Labour party conference will take place this autumn;
  - b. Visited event venues in Manchester, where the Conservative party conference will take place this autumn;
  - c. Held internal discussions as to possible topics for City Corporation events party conferences.

### **Overall Activities**

8. 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 signing off 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
Local Government	<i>London Government Dinner</i>	<b>Sadiq Khan</b> , Mayor of London; <b>Cllr Peter John</b> , Leader, Southwark Council & Chair of London Councils. <i>Senior representatives from London's local authorities also in attendance.</i>	10/01/2019	Briefing: Policy Chair
Parliament	Call	<b>Chi Onwurah MP</b> , Shadow Minister for Industrial Strategy	11/01/2019	Attended Call: Policy Chair
Corporation Event	Freedom of the City – Ceremony and Dinner	<b>Richard Harrington MP</b> , Minister for Business and Industry. In attendance – <b>Greg Clark MP</b> , Secretary of State for Business, Energy, Industrial Strategy	17/01/2019	Speech: Policy Chair
Local Government	Meeting	<b>Shirley Rodrigues</b> , Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy	17/01/2019	Note of and attendance at meeting
Local Government	Meeting	<b>Cllr Claire Coghill</b> , Leader of Waltham Forest Council & <b>Martin Epsom</b> , Chief Executive, Waltham Forest Council Vice	18/01/2019	Briefing: Policy Chair and Town Clerk
Corporation Event	Sheriff's Lunch	<b>David Gauke MP</b> , Secretary of State for Justice	21/01/2019	Briefing: Sheriff Elizabeth Green
Parliament	Briefing Circle Roundtable – <i>'Focus on the UK's Domestic Policy Agenda'</i>	<b>Nicky Morgan MP</b> , Chair, Treasury Select Committee	23/01/2019	Briefing: Deputy Chair
International	Panel Event	<b>UK Fintech Mission to Switzerland</b>	24/01/2019	Speech: Policy Chair
Corporation Event	Sheriff's Lunch	<b>Dame Eleanor Laing MP</b> , Deputy Speaker of the House	28/01/2019	Briefing: Sheriff Elizabeth Green
International	<i>Financial Services Roundtable – Mumbai</i>	Representatives from Barclays, HSBC, Deloitte, EY, JP Morgan, and others.	29/01/2019	Speech: Policy Chair

International	<i>Launch of City of London &amp; PwC Regtech report.</i>	Governor of the Reserve Bank of India – TBC	29/01/2019	Speech: Policy Chair
Parliament	TheCityUK Senior Members Roundtable	<b>Sir Graham Brady MP</b> , Chairman, Conservative 1922 Committee	29/01/2019	Briefing: Deputy Chair
Think-Tank	<i>Whitehall and Industry Group CEO Roundtable</i>	<b>Sir Mark Sedwill</b> , Cabinet Secretary & <b>John Manzoni</b> , Chief Executive of the Civil Service and Permanent Secretary of the Cabinet Office	30/01/2019	Briefing: Policy Chair
Local Government	Meeting	<b>Cllr Jas Athwal</b> , Leader, Redbridge Council	04/02/2019	Briefing: Policy Chair
Government	Meeting	<b>Kit Malthouse MP</b> , Housing Minister	04/02/2019	Briefing: Policy Chair
Local Government	<i>Launch of Centre for London report: 'Capital to country: London's relationship with the United Kingdom'</i>	<b>Caroline Flint MP</b> ; <b>Henri Murison</b> , Director, The Northern Powerhouse Partnership; <b>Jackie Sadek</b> , Chief Executive, UK Regeneration	05/02/2019	Speech: Policy Chair
Local Government	<i>London Councils Leaders' Committee</i>	Various leaders of London Councils	05/02/2019	Briefing: Deputy Chair
Regional Government	<i>Belfast City Council Reception</i>	<b>Suzanne Wylie</b> , Chief Executive, Belfast City Council	05/02/2019	Speech & Briefing: Policy Chair
Government	<i>TheCityUK's Chairman's Dinner</i>	<b>Jeremy Hunt MP</b> , Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	05/02/2019	Briefing: Policy Chair