

Committee(s)	Dated:
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee	5 February 2019
Subject: Parliamentary Team update	Public
Report of: Paul Double, City Remembrancer	For Information
Report author: Emma Wade, Parliamentary Engagement Officer	

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. An oral update will be provided at the meeting on the parliamentary next steps in the Brexit process.

This report spans the period since the last meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee on 8 January.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

1. At the time of writing, further Commons debate and a vote on the Government's 'Plan B' for the Brexit negotiations is due to take place on Tuesday 29 January. The House of Commons motion is not a re-run of the 'meaningful vote' on a deal. In order to ratify the Withdrawal Agreement, the Government must return to the Commons and comply with the full requirements of the EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018 Section 13(1). No official indication of timing has been given on this yet. An oral update will be provided on the outcome of the vote (and corresponding amendments) at the meeting of the Committee.

Legislation

2. Work on a private Bill relating to the relocation of City's markets and a separate private member's Bill on air quality in Greater London is being undertaken by the Office. The Office continues to work with London Councils on the Bill relating to air quality. The Chair of Policy and Resources recently met with Shirley Rodrigues (Deputy Mayor for the Environment) to discuss the Corporation's proposals.
3. The Financial Services (Implementation of Legislation) Bill completed its committee stage in the House of Lords without amendment. Lord Bates explained the purpose of the Bill as being to provide "a temporary solution, specifically in a no-deal scenario, to deal with the dynamic regulatory landscape for the financial services industry after the UK has left the EU negotiating table and taken its own

path.” Responding to the subsequent debate, Bates said that the Government were “alert to concerns... and the need to maintain the competitiveness of the UK financial services industry and to ensure that any regulatory burdens are applied to small and medium-sized enterprises in a proportionate way.” The Bill will have its Report Stage on 29 January. There are some technical aspects of the Bill which may need to be addressed. These are currently being examined and, if necessary, can be the subject of amendments tabled in the Commons. Further information will be circulated in this eventuality.

Debates and Briefings

4. An updated briefing note on the ‘cliff edge’ risks for the financial services sector, focusing on contract continuity and data flows, was circulated to targeted MPs and Peers ahead of the meaningful vote and debate on 15 January.
5. The Office, working with the Port Health team, drafted a letter sent jointly by the Policy Chair and Port Health & Environmental Services Committee Chair Jeremy Simons to relevant Select Committee Chairs and constituency MPs. The letters outlined the City Corporation’s concerns with regards to port health and animal health and a ‘no deal’ Brexit.
6. The Office briefed and supported a phone call between the Policy Chair and Labour’s Shadow Industrial Strategy Minister, Chi Onwurah, MP for Newcastle upon Tyne Central. The call focused on financial and professional services ‘no deal’ contingency planning.
7. The Office briefed for and accompanied the Policy Chair to a meeting with Helen Whately MP, the Conservative Party’s vice-chair for Women, to discuss representation of women in politics and in business.

Select Committees

8. Commander Karen Baxter and Detective Chief Superintendent Peter O’Doherty of the City of London Police gave oral evidence to the Treasury Select Committee’s inquiry into economic crime. They were briefed ahead of the session by members of the Office, and a member of the Office accompanied them to Parliament.
9. A submission was made to the International Trade Select Committee inquiry into ‘UK Trade in Services’, working in conjunction with both the Regulatory Affairs and Exports and Investment EDO teams. The submission highlighted the importance of exploring opportunities for boosting further trade in services post-Brexit, and suggested ways in which this could be achieved.

GLA and the Regions

10. Members and officers of the GLA were sent a briefing note on the cliff-edge risks facing the financial services sector in the event of a ‘no deal’ Brexit, ahead of the first Mayor’s Question Time of the year, which featured several Brexit-related questions.
11. A press release concerning the concept designs for the Centre for Music and the project’s next steps was circulated to Members of the London Assembly.

Other

12. The Government confirmed in a written statement that a reciprocal agreement had been reached with Spain on the voting rights of UK and Spanish citizens “to stand and vote in local elections now and in the future”, with DExEU Minister Robin Walker adding his hope this “will be the first of many similar bilateral agreements with other Member States.” He also confirmed that whilst agreements were being negotiated with Member States the Government “do not anticipate any changes to the current primary legislative framework for candidacy and voting rights being made before the May 2019 English and Northern Ireland local elections” and added that “it is the policy intent of the UK Government that candidates who are validly nominated and elected at the May 2019 local elections in England and Northern Ireland should be able to serve that term of office in full.”

28 January 2019

Emma Wade

Parliamentary Engagement Officer, Office of the City Remembrancer

T: 020 7332 3901

E: emma.wade@cityoflondon.gov.uk