

<b>Committee</b> Public Relations and Economic Development Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 7 May 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> Meghan Green, Corporate Affairs Officer	

### Summary

This report provides a monthly update of the Corporate Affairs Team's activities in 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

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 third Meaningful 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 the latest political developments in the UK and EU following the UK and EU's agreement to extend to the UK's deadline for departure to 31 October;
  - b. Contributed to Brexit updates for the Policy Chair and Lord Mayor;

- c. Liaised with the City Corporation's various departments to ensure all Brexit-related engagement with the Government is coherent organised and strategically conducted;
- d. Co-ordinated a grid of Brexit-related engagements across all areas of the Corporation ahead of the Town Clerk's weekly Brexit contingency planning meetings with senior officers;
- e. Reviewed the Brexit contingency plans of other City Corporation departments alongside the Media Team;
- f. Identified and invited Ministers, Shadow Ministers and other Members of Parliament to meetings with the Policy Chair to discuss issues of mutual interest, including, but not limited to, Brexit-related matters.

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

3. The Corporate Affairs team seeks to develop and encourage the City Corporation's engagement with the rest of London beyond the Square Mile. To this end, the Corporate Affairs Team:
  - a. Continued to develop work on a London borough engagement programme for the Policy Chair. Visits this month included the London Boroughs of Brent, Greenwich, Hackney and the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames, accompanied by their respective council leaders;
  - b. Briefed and attended the Policy Chair's meeting with London Assembly Member, Unmesh Desai;
  - c. Arranged, briefed and attended the Policy Chair's meeting with the new Chief Executive of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with regard to the City Corporation's London promotion and engagement;
  - d. Briefed the Policy Chair for a meeting with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Crossrail alongside colleagues in the Department of Built Environment.

### **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 political representatives and decision-makers in government – at local, regional and national levels. To this end, the City Corporation:

### **National Engagement**

- a. Briefed the Policy Chair for a meeting with Lord Kerslake, Chair of the Local Government Association as well as roles in other notable organisations;
- b. Provided speaking notes for the Policy Chair's opening remarks at the Museum of London's 'Beasts of London' exhibition;
- c. Provided speaking notes and input into briefings for a number of freedom ceremonies, including that of Home Secretary Sajid Javid MP, and the

Managing Director of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Alice G. Vaidyan;

- d. Drafted proposals for topics to be explored at the upcoming Battle of Ideas Festival.

### **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 has:
  - a. Alongside the Asia team officers, Corporate Affairs contributed to the Policy Chair's briefing pack for her attendance at the Belt and Road Summit in China, as well as producing speaking notes engagements;
  - b. Drafted the Policy Chair's remarks at the Innovate Finance Global Summit 2019;
  - c. Drafted the Chief Commoner's first speech and statement.

### **Think Tanks and Third-Party organisations**

6. As part of the City Corporation's engagement with think tanks and other external organisations, the Corporate Affairs Team has:
  - a. Researched plans, alongside relevant officers in EDO, on planned party conference activities and held discussions with partnering think tanks;
  - b. Continued to work with the Centre for Policy Studies on the Thatcher Conference on UK-US relations;
  - c. Liaised with the Franco-British Council on the Gala Dinner to be held in Guildhall;
  - d. Alongside EDO colleagues, liaised with SecurityWomen on the upcoming Women in Security conference.

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