

Committee(s)	Dated:
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee	7 May 2019
Subject: Parliamentary Team update	Public
Report of: Paul Double, City Remembrancer	For Information
Report author: Michael Comba, Parliamentary 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 Brexit parliamentary programme.

This report spans the period since the last meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee on 7 March.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Following the failure to ratify the Withdrawal Agreement, the Government agreed an extension to Article 50 with the European Council to 31 October. The extension may be terminated early, should the Withdrawal Agreement be ratified before the deadline. Parliament also passed Yvette Cooper's (Lab) European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2019. The Act makes it easier for the Government to seek a future Article 50 extension as it removes the need for explicit parliamentary approval to effect the extension in domestic legislation. It is expected that the Government will bring the Withdrawal Agreement before Parliament again in the form of the Withdrawal Agreement (Implementation) Bill, but at the time of writing no formal announcements have been made. An oral update will be provided on the Brexit parliamentary programme at the meeting.

Legislation

1. The Office has reached an advanced stage on the drafting of a private member's Bill relating to air quality following an engagement programme with London Councils and the GLA. The proposals were considered by London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee on 21 March and were approved. This paves the way for the Bill's introduction in the next parliamentary session.
2. Preparatory work on a private bill relating to the relocation of the City Corporation's markets is being advanced following the decision of the Court on 25 April.

3. The Financial Services (Implementation of Legislation) Bill was withdrawn from consideration by the Government following the tabling of amendment by Dame Margaret Hodge (Lab) and Andrew Mitchell (Con) that provided for the establishment of public beneficial company ownership registers in British Crown Dependencies. At the time of writing, its reintroduction is yet to be announced.
4. The Lords completed its Third Reading of the Trade Bill on 20 March with a number of amendments relating to the future trading relationship with the EU. At the time of writing, the Commons Consideration of these amendments is awaited.

Debates and Briefings

5. The Office provided briefing notes to targeted MPs and Peers ahead of the following debates:
 - UK access to Erasmus+ post-Brexit held by Baroness Warwick (Lab) on 11 March;
 - a question asked by Lord Holmes of Richmond (Con) on support for the UK as a global centre for fintech on 10 April, contributed to by Lord Mountevans.
6. Provided briefing notes for the following parliamentary questions:
 - Baroness McIntosh (Con) on the UK's post-Brexit access to rapid alert systems for food and feed imports on 11 March;
 - Lord Chidgey (Libdem) on building a fairer Commonwealth on 13 March;
 - Baroness Newnham (Libdem) on bilateral European relations post-Brexit on 20 March;
 - Baroness Kennedy (Lab) on air quality on 8 April;
 - Baroness Jenkin (Con) on plastic pollution on 10 April.
7. The Office arranged, and supported, meetings between the Policy Chair and the following MPs and Peers:
 - Lords EU Sub-Committee on Financial Affairs Chair Baroness Falkner (Libdem) to discuss Brexit on 18 March;
 - Former Defence Secretary Michael Fallon (Con) to discuss Brexit on 18 March;
 - Shadow Industrial Strategy Minister Chi Onwurah on 27 March;
 - Former Education Secretary Justine Greening (Con) to discuss social mobility on 29 April;

- Treasury Select Committee Chair Nicky Morgan (Con), accompanied by Nick Collier, Managing Director of the Brussels Office, to discuss future EU engagement and EU market access on 29 April;
 - Members of the SNP, together with industry representatives, for a roundtable meeting to discuss financial services on 30 April.
8. The Office has also arranged, and will support, a visit from members of the Lords EU Sub-Committee on Energy and Environment to port health facilities at London Gateway, hosted by Jeremy Simons, Chairman of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee, on 1 May.
9. The Office has also arranged, and will support, a meeting for 7 May regarding air quality and sustainable cities, as an opportunity to set out, in a parliamentary setting, City Corporation plans.

Select Committees

10. Working with the Department for the Built Environment, the Office made a submission to the Transport Select Committee inquiry into pedestrian safety. It is also preparing in conjunction with the following:
- EDO, a submission to the Treasury Select Committee's inquiry into the future of UK financial services;
 - The Department for the Built Environment, a submission to the Transport Select Committee inquiry into pedestrian safety;
 - The Plastic Free City Initiative, a submission to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Select Committee inquiry into plastic food and drink packaging;
 - Open Spaces, a submission to the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee inquiry into garden tourism;
 - Epping Forest, a submission to the Environmental Audit Committee inquiry into invasive species.
11. The Office also briefed:
- The EFRA Select Committee on Brexit port health cliff edge risks ahead of a one-off evidence session with Defra ministers;
 - The Lords EU Sub-Committee on Energy and the Environment on the City Corporation's work on freight deliveries.

All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs)

12. Office representatives attended meetings of the following APPGs:

- Apprenticeships on 5 March;
- Rule of Law on 1 April.

13. The Office arranged, and supported, a meeting with the Women and Work APPG to discuss possible future engagement on 27 March.

14. City Corporation press releases were also circulated on the following:

- The City Corporation's new all-electric waste collection fleet to the Chairs of the APPGs on air quality and electric vehicles;
- The recent work of the Plastic Free City Initiative to the Chair of the APPG on Plastic Waste.

GLA and the Regions

15. The Office briefed the following:

- Caroline Russell, Chair of the GLA's Environment Committee, on the City Corporation's proposals to move towards an electric fleet of Refuse Collection Vehicles;
- Andrew Dismore on the cliff edge risks for the FS sector related to a 'no deal' Brexit ahead of his question to the Mayor on the issue;
- The GLA's Environment Committee on the progress of the City Corporation's Plastic Free City initiative and the installation of a water point on Cheapside.

16. The City Corporation's recent *Locate, Create, Innovate* report was also circulated to the members of the GLA's Economy, Regeneration and Planning Committees.

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Michael Comba

Parliamentary Officer, Office of the City Remembrancer

T: 020 7332 1200

E: michael.comba@cityoflondon.gov.uk