

<b>Committee</b> Public Relations and Economic Development Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 11 June 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 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 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.

Each area of activity is linked back to the objectives outlined in the Communications Business Plan.

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. To implement and oversee the Corporate Affairs team objectives as outlined in the Communications Business Plan.
2. 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 of engagement.

### **Brexit**

3. Following the extension to Article 50 granted by the European Union (EU) Council, the Corporate Affairs team:

- a. Continued to monitor 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. 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.
4. The above links to the following Business Plan objectives:
- a. To have coordinated political engagement activity across the organisation;
  - b. To remain relevant in the policy-making and political sphere.

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

5. 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. Briefed and accompanied the Policy Chair on her visit to Sutton, where she met the Council Leader, Ruth Dombey;
  - b. Organised a roundtable discussion on how to improve freight movement across London, in partnership with the consultancy firm Sancroft and former Secretary of State for the Environment, Lord Deben;
  - c. Briefed the Policy Chair for the London Councils Leaders Committee annual general meeting; her meeting with the Leader of Barking and Dagenham Council, Councillor Darren Rodwell; and her attendance at the Crossrail High Level Forum, with input from the Department for Built Environment;
  - d. Drafted the Policy Chair's speaking remarks, and supported the briefing note for, the London Walking and Cycling Conference.
6. The above links to the following Business Plan objectives:
- a. To have coordinated political engagement activity across the organisation;
  - b. To remain relevant in the policy-making and political sphere;
  - c. To bring stakeholders together to discuss policy issues that affect them, and subsequently deliver on any desired outcome of that discussion.

### **Domestic Political Engagement**

7. 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. Drafted speaking remarks for the Policy Chair, and reviewed the Lord Mayor's speaking remarks, both given at City Corporation's Parliamentary Terrace Reception;
  - b. Assisted with the briefing for, and speeches by, the Lord Mayor ahead of the Business and Industry Dinner;
  - c. As part of the Policy Chair's upcoming visit to Cardiff, organised meetings with local Welsh politicians and industry figures;
8. The above links to the following Business Plan objectives:
- a. To deliver clear, consistent and confident public messaging across the City Corporation;
  - b. To have coordinated political engagement activity across the organisation;
  - c. To remain relevant in the policy-making and political sphere;
  - d. To bring stakeholders together to discuss policy issues that affect them, and subsequently deliver on any desired outcome of that discussion.

## **International Engagement**

9. 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. Contributed to the briefing pack for the Policy Chair's trip to the United States;
  - b. Assisted with the briefing for, and speeches by, the Lord Mayor ahead of the Easter Banquet;
  - c. Drafted a speech given by the Policy Chair at an event with Chris Giancarlo, Chairman of the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission.
10. The above links to the following Business Plan objectives:
- a. To deliver clear, consistent and confident public messaging across the City Corporation.

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

11. As part of the City Corporation's engagement with think tanks and other external organisations, the Corporate Affairs team has:
- a. Submitted an essay on behalf of Sir Roger Gifford, Chair of the Green Finance Initiative, on how Green Finance can help tackle climate change for the Social Market Foundation's collection of essays on sustainable finance and climate change;
  - b. Met with the Institute for Public Policy Research and Reform, where future workstreams and initiatives were discussed;
  - c. Discussed future events between the Strand Group (part of King's College London) and the City Corporation;

- d. Met with the Fabian Society to discuss their City Corporation sponsored research project, 'Using Arts and Culture to Enable Deprived Communities to Thrive';
- e. Arranged for the Policy Chair's participation to and respective briefing for a private dinner with Sir John Cunliffe, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, at Chatham House;
- f. Briefed and provided the speaking remarks for the Policy Chair's participation in Chatham House's corporate event, 'Can British Services Survive Brexit?';
- g. Continued organising the 'Women in Security Conference', to be hosted at Guildhall.

12. The above links to the following Business Plan objectives:

- a. To bring stakeholders together to discuss policy issues that affect them, and subsequently deliver on any desired outcome of that discussion.

### **Party Conference**

13. In preparation of the City Corporation's annual programme at the major political party conferences, the Corporate Affairs team has:

- a. Liaised with think-tank partners – IPPR, Social Market Foundation, Centre for Policy Studies and Policy Exchange – Continued organising City Corporation events at Liberal Democrat, Labour, and Conservative party conferences respectively;
- b. Booked party conference passes for PRED Members who have confirmed their attendance.

14. The above links to the following Business Plan objectives:

- a. To remain relevant in the policy-making and political sphere;
- b. To bring stakeholders together to discuss policy issues that affect them, and subsequently deliver on any desired outcome of that discussion.

### **Priorities for the next quarter**

15. Priorities for the Corporate Affairs team over the next four months are:

- a. Organising the City Corporation's attendance and activities at the Autumn party conferences.
- b. Delivering on the second tranche of London Borough engagement for the Policy Chair.
- c. Continuing to effectively communicate **(a)** Brexit messaging and associated risks based on the political landscape and **(b)** the London Fundamentals messaging, to key political stakeholders
- d. Developing the role and scope of the new Sports Engagement Manager, who has now been appointed.

**Jan Gokcen**

Corporate Affairs Officer

E: [jan.gokcen@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:jan.gokcen@cityoflondon.gov.uk)