

Committee Public Relations and Economic Development Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee	Dated: 02 July 2019
Subject: Corporate Affairs Update	Public
Report of: Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	For Information
Report author: 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 supports both Members and officers in its delivery, with a focus on the activity undertaken by the Policy Chair and the 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 areas of engagement listed below.

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;
 - d. Organised a meeting between the Policy Chair and the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, Stephen Barclay MP, to discuss no deal preparations, access to international talent post-Brexit, SME preparedness, and other 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 the Policy Chair for the meeting of London Councils Executive, which was attended by Nick Hurd MP, Minister for London;
 - b. Organised and briefed the Policy Chair for the visit to the Royal Borough of Kingston, where a meeting with the Leader of the Council, Cllr Liz Green, also took place;
 - c. Briefed the Policy Chair for a meeting with senior representatives of Islington Council, including Cllr Richard Watts, Leader of Islington Council;
 - d. Drafted the Policy Chair's speaking remarks for the London Real Estate Forum;
 - e. Drafted the Policy Chair's speaking remarks for the London Careers Festival;
 - f. Drafted the Policy Chair's speaking remarks for the 'Eid in the City' dinner, held at Mansion House, which was attended by the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan MP.
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. Organised and briefed the Policy Chair for meetings with David Lidington MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Kit Malthouse MP, Minister of State for Housing, respectively;
 - b. Organised for the Policy Chair to visit Wales as part of the City Corporation's regional engagement programme, where a meeting with Mark Drakeford MP, First Minister of Wales, was held;
 - c. In conjunction with the Remembrancer's Team, organised a meeting between the Policy Chair and with the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee Tom Tugendhat MP, for which the Remembrancer's Team briefed and accompanied the Policy Chair;
 - d. Contributed to the Lord Mayor's briefing for the meeting with Minister for Digital and Creative Industries Margot James MP.
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. Prepared the Policy Chair's speaking remarks for the UK-Singapore Business Summit;
 - b. Prepared the Deputy Chair's speaking remarks for the Franco-British Council;
 - c. Prepared the Policy Chair's speaking remarks for the UK-China Economic & Financial Dialogue;
 - d. Contributed to the Lord Mayor's speaking remarks for the trip to the United States of America and Canada.
 - e. Prepared the Policy Chair's speaking remarks for the India Day summit, held at Mansion House.
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. Liaised with the think-tank Bright Blue regarding their upcoming conference, which will be held at Guildhall, that will feature the Secretary of State for Education Damian Hinds MP as the keynote speaker;
 - b. Liaised with the Institute for Public Policy Research regarding their new Environmental Justice Commission, which the City Corporation has agreed to sponsor;
 - c. Organised a roundtable in partnership with the New Economics Foundation on employee ownership;
 - d. Liaised with the Fabian Society, where updates regarding their City Corporation sponsored research project, 'Using Arts and Culture to Enable Deprived Communities to Thrive', was provided;
 - e. Organised the Centre for Policy Studies' Margaret Thatcher Conference on 'Britain and America', held here at Guildhall, which featured HE US Ambassador to the UK; Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs; Liam Fox MP, Secretary of State for International Trade; John Glen MP, City Minister; Lord Saatchi, Chairman, CPS; George Osborne, Editor, Evening Standard.

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;
 - c. Liaised with key stakeholders in the trade association sub-sector, specifically TCUK and UK Finance, to ensure that our respective party conference activities are aligned.
 - d. Attended the Brexit Party conference and is arranging attendance at the Green Party conference.

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. Monitoring developments in the Conservative party leadership contest
 - e. Continuing with the sports engagement programme which is the subject of a separate report to this Committee, every quarter.

Jan Gokcen

Corporate Affairs Officer

E: jan.gokcen@cityoflondon.gov.uk

M: 07807864954797