

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Committee(s) | Dated: |
| Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee | 2 July 2019 |
| Subject: Parliamentary Team update | Public |
| Report of: Paul Double, City Remembrancer | For Information |
| Report author: Michael Comba, Parliamentary Officer | |

Summary

This report is 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 Government's Brexit parliamentary programme.

This report is written with reference to the top line parliamentary objectives and deliverables of the Remembrancer's Office Departmental Business Plan 2019-20. For the Committee's reference, these are set out in the appendix.

This report spans the period since the last meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee on 11 June.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Brexit legislation (Objective 1)

1. The process to elect a new leader of the Conservative Party is nearing completion following Theresa May's official resignation on 7 June. Theresa May will stand down as Prime Minister when a new leader is elected, which is scheduled to occur during the week of 22 July.
2. The Office has provided regular updates to the Policy Chair, Deputies and Chief Officers on the progress of the contest. Following several rounds of eliminating ballots, Conservative Party members will now elect from one of either Boris Johnson or Jeremy Hunt. A further update, including details of the candidates' policy commitments, will be circulated to Members and Chief Officers.
3. The Office continues to monitor Brexit legislation, both primary and secondary. Statutory instruments were recently made in relation to 'no deal' mitigation for OTC derivatives. In addition, the Office will, in conjunction with other departments, continue to engage with parliamentarians where legislation impacts on the interests of the City Corporation and its stakeholders. The

Remembrancer regularly updates the Financial Markets Law Committee on parliamentary aspects of Brexit.

City Corporation legislation (Objective 2)

3. Following approval by London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee on 21 March, the Private Member's Bill relating to air quality has been further developed. A parliamentary engagement plan will be triggered as soon as the Bill is introduced. Lord Tope, a vice president of London Councils) has indicated his willingness to act as Sponsor. A full update, in respect of activity undertaken since the Bill was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee, is provided in a separate joint report of the Remembrancer and the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection.
4. Preparatory work on a private bill relating to the relocation of the City Corporation's markets continues, following the decision of the Court on 25 April that the City Corporation's three wholesale markets should be relocated. Ahead of the opening of the public consultation, the Remembrancer wrote to alert relevant MPs, All-Party Parliamentary Groups, Committees, and Assembly Members to the consultation.

Parliamentary inquiries (Objective 3)

5. Following a submission to the Environmental Audit Committee's inquiry into invasive species, the Committee asked for a witness to give oral evidence in light of the City Corporation's port health responsibilities. The Office worked with Rob Quest, Assistant Director (Animal Health and Welfare), prior to his appearance before the Committee. This has been followed up with further supplementary evidence and an invitation to the Committee to visit the Heathrow Animal Reception Centre.
6. Working with Innovation and Growth, the Office is preparing a submission to the Treasury Select Committee's inquiry into green finance.

Responding to issues raised in Parliament (Objective 4)

7. The Office provided briefing notes to relevant MPs and peers ahead of the following debates:
 - Smart Cities, held by Lisa Cameron MP (SNP), on 24 June;
 - Protecting children from harmful vehicle emissions, held by Baroness Randerson (Lib Dem), on 11 June;
 - Operation of the theatre market and ensuring that theatre is accessible to as wide an audience as possible, held by Earl of Glasgow (Lib Dem), on 11 June;
 - Reflecting social diversity on boards of public bodies, held by Lord Holmes of Richmond (Con), on 24 June;

8. Contact was made with the following peers in advance of their parliamentary questions:
 - Lord Black of Brentwood (Con), decline in students taking A-Level music, on 24 June;
 - Lord Harries of Pentregarth (Crossbench), Ash dieback, on 25 June.
9. A briefing note was also provided to Baroness Quin (Lib Dem) following her recent parliamentary contributions on access to talent in the creative sector.

Enhancing Parliamentary engagement (Objective 5)

10. The Office briefed the Lord Mayor ahead of appearance at a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary China Group, on 10 June, chaired by Richard Graham MP (Con) and Baroness Northover (Lib Dem) at which he briefed attendees on his recent visit to Shenzhen, Shanghai and Beijing.
11. The Office supported a briefing session with the Lords EU Sub-Committee on Financial Affairs chaired by Nick Collier, Managing Director of the Brussels Office on 19 June.
12. A briefing on the launch of the City Corporation's LawTech Sounding Board was sent to the clerks of the Treasury, Justice, and Business committees, as well as to the MPs chairing the All-Party Parliamentary Groups for Artificial Intelligence, Legal & Constitutional Affairs, Insurance & Financial Services, Financial Technology, Wholesale Financial Markets & Services, and Blockchain.

GLA and the devolved institutions (Objective 6)

13. Working with Open Spaces, the Office is preparing a submission to the GLA Environment Committee's inquiry into green spaces.
13. Caroline Russell (Green), who has previously expressed an interest in the accessibility of walkways, was sent a briefing on the Court of Common Council's decision to ban advertising boards on the City's pavements.
14. A site visit is being arranged for the GLA's Transport Committee to view the City Corporation's recently installed electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Key priorities over the next month

15. Work will continue in support of the markets' relocation programme and the introduction of private bill, and in respect of the air quality bill.
16. Parliamentary engagement meetings are being arranged between the Policy Chair and the following MPs:

- Yvette Cooper (Lab), Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, to discuss the UK immigration system, particularly in relation to the City Corporation's recent visa research;
- Wes Streeting (Lab), member of the Treasury Select Committee and Deputy Chair of the APPG on Wholesale Finance, to discuss the work of the APPG and opportunities for further engagement;
- Tom Tugendhat (Con), Chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, to discuss the City Corporation's international engagement programme in connection with the Committee's ongoing inquiry into Global Britain. A meeting is also being arranged with Alec Shelbrooke, Conservative Party Vice-Chair (International), on the same matter;
- Members of the International Trade Select Committee as part of a roundtable briefing session on the City Corporation's international engagement programme. This is being co-ordinated following the meeting between the Policy Chair and Angus MacNeil (SNP), the Committee's Chair.

17. Progress of the following relevant legislation, and their next parliamentary stages, is awaited:

- Financial Services (Implementation of Legislation) Bill (Commons' Report Stage);
- Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill (Commons' Report Stage);
- Trade Bill (Commons consideration of Lords' amendments).

24 June 2019

Michael Comba
Parliamentary Officer, Office of the City Remembrancer
T: 020 7332 1200
E: michael.comba@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Appendix One: Parliamentary Team Objectives

1. Propose amendments or new clauses to Brexit-related legislation to reflect City Corporation views and report on the progress of such legislation to Members.
2. Draft and secure the passage through Parliament of City Corporation legislation, with a particular focus on securing legislation on relocating the City's markets and gaining support for the provisions included in a Private Members Bill on air quality.
3. Make submissions to Parliamentary committee inquiries into relevant City Corporation issues in collaboration with the Economic Development Office and other departments.
4. Respond to any issues or concerns raised in Parliament in either debates or tabled questions through briefing relevant MPs and Peers.
5. Enhance Parliamentary engagement through direct contact with members of both Houses on key issues and with relevant All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs).
6. Enhance engagement with the Greater London Assembly (GLA) and the devolved institutions on matters of interest to the City through briefings and submissions to relevant inquiries.