

Committee Public Relations and Economic Development Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee	Dated: 10 October 2019
Subject: Corporate Affairs Update	Public
Report of: Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	For Information
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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. The focus of this report is 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/or 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 fulfil the objectives set out in the Communications Business Plan set out for the Corporate Affairs team.

Overview

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. Ahead of the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union, the Corporate Affairs team:
 - a. Monitored political developments in the UK and EU following the agreement between both parties to extend to the deadline for departure the UK's departure to 31 October;
 - b. Contributed to Brexit updates for the Policy Chair and Lord Mayor;
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.

Domestic Political Engagement

5. The Corporate Affairs team organises engagement with key political representatives and decision-makers in government at local, regional and national levels and in September and October, this covers the annual party conference season.

Party Conferences

- a. The Liberal Democrat party conference took place 14-17 September in Bournemouth. The City Corporation held a private roundtable with the Social Market Foundation, a private dinner with key political and business attendees and the Policy Chair held meetings with Liberal Democrat figures.
 - b. The Labour Party conference took place 21-25 September in Brighton. The City Corporation held a private roundtable with the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), a private dinner with key political and business attendees and the Policy Chair held meetings with Labour figures.
 - c. The Corporate Affairs team will also be leading the City Corporation's activity at the Conservative, Scottish National Party Conference and other conferences taking place. Members of this committee will receive a full update when conference season has ended.
6. 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.

National Engagement

- a. Issued Public Policy Bulletins on the Government's Spending Review and on the state of play in Parliament following the summer parliamentary recess, alongside the REM office.
- b. Led on co-ordinating internal guidance on engagement rules during the period of a general election.
- c. Briefed colleagues on key policy developments from the Labour Party, notably on proposals for a financial transaction tax.

- d. Provided the Policy Chair with a speech at a dinner with the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions, which took place on 12 September.
 - e. Coordinated the briefing for the Policy Chair ahead of a roundtable convened by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 2 September.
 - f. Supported the briefing for the Policy Chair and Lord Mayor's meeting with Andrew Griffith, the Prime Minister's Chief Business Adviser on 6 September.
7. 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

8. The Corporate Affairs team assists the City Corporation's overseas engagements undertaken by the Policy Chair and Lord Mayor. The Corporate Affairs team:
- a. Attended and fed into a meeting on the City Corporation's engagement with the Commonwealth.
 - b. Provided the Policy Chair with words for closing remarks at the 23rd World Conference of Banking Institutes.
 - c. Supported the briefing for Members and Chief Officers attending the International Trade Dinner at Mansion House on 5 September.
 - d. Provided the Policy Chair with a speech to open London International Shipping Week on 3 September.
 - e. Provided the Policy Chair with a speech for the Asian Financial Cooperation International Forum on 3 September.
 - f. Provided the Policy Chair with a speech for the UK-China Business Leaders Forum and Dinner on 3 September.
9. The above links to the following Business Plan objectives:
- a. To deliver clear, consistent and confident public messaging across the City Corporation.

London – Local engagement and London promotion

10. The Corporate Affairs team seeks to maintain and develop the City Corporation's engagement with communities, bodies and authorities across London. The Corporate Affairs team:
- a. At the Liberal Democrat party conference, the Policy Chair met Siobhan Benita, the party's candidate at the 2020 London mayoral election. The Policy Chair will be seeing the Conservative candidate, Shaun Bailey, at the Conservative Party conference.
 - b. Briefed the Policy Chair ahead of her regular engagements with London Councils and Central London Forward;
 - c. Supported preparations for the Centre for London's annual 'London Conference', which the City Corporation is sponsoring.
 - d. Continued engagement with London boroughs.

- e. The City Corporate is sponsoring a children's book on the City by Guy Fox History Project and workshops with schoolchildren are taking place over the coming weeks.

11. 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.

Think-tanks and third-party organisations

12. As part of the City Corporation's engagement with think tanks and other external organisations, the Corporate Affairs team:

- a. Briefed the Policy Chair and accompanied her to a meeting of the IPPR's Commission on Environmental Justice, a two-year programme aimed at setting out a series of policies to establish an environmentally sustainable UK economy, which the City Corporation is sponsoring.
- b. A roundtable was held on 9 September with the New Economics Foundation to discuss the Labour Party's proposals for Inclusive Ownership Funds.

13. 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.

Priorities for the next quarter

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

- a. Delivering the City Corporation's attendance and activities at the remaining Autumn party conferences.
- b. Engaging with the new Government in place
- c. Organising the next wave of London Borough meetings for the Policy Chair, with the aim of having organised engagement with all 32 boroughs by the end of the year.
- d. Continuing to effectively communicate **(a)** Brexit messaging and associated risks/opportunities and **(b)** the London Fundamentals messaging, to key political stakeholders
- e. Monitoring developments between the UK and the EU ahead of the October 31st Brexit deadline;
- f. Continuing with the sports engagement programme which is the subject of a separate report to this Committee, every quarter.