

Committee(s)	Dated:
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee	10 October 2019
Subject: Parliamentary Team Update	Public
Report of: Paul Double, City Remembrancer	For Information
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Summary

This report updates 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 covers the period since the last meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee on 10 September.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Prorogation and the Supreme Court

1. The Remembrancer's note on the Supreme Court's decision was sent to members of this Committee. A further oral update will be provided at your Sub Committee meeting.

Party Conferences

2. The Remembrancer attended the City Corporation dinners at the Lib Dem, Labour and Conservative party conferences. A member of the Parliamentary Team covered each conference to report on matters of City interest, with particular focus on the fringe events. The Team's reports, which were incorporated with the Policy Chair's reflections and Corporate Affairs' commentary on City Corporation events, were sent to Members following the end of each conference.

Brexit legislation (Objective 1)

3. The Supreme Court's decision that prorogation was unlawful means that Bills and all parliamentary proceedings are regarded as extant and will progress as though prorogation had not happened.

City Corporation legislation (Objective 2)

4. 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 meeting was held with House officials on 20 August to discuss procedural and drafting aspects. The Office has continued to discuss technical procedural matters with the House authorities. At their request the Remembrancer submitted a paper in support of the view that the measure would not be hybrid on introduction. The Remembrancer was notified on 21 September that this view had been accepted. Assuming the new session of Parliament is opened on 14 October, it is intended that the Bill will be entered into the ballot in the new session. This will determine how soon the introduction and first reading will take place. Exploratory discussions on handling if, for any reason, the Queen's Speech does not take place as timed have taken place.
5. Following the decision of the Court on 25 April that the City Corporation's three wholesale markets should be relocated, work on a private bill relating to the relocation of the City Corporation's markets is being further developed. The Remembrancer wrote to relevant MPs, All-Party Parliamentary Groups, Committees, and GLA Assembly Members to draw their attention to the public consultation. The Remembrancer and Director of the Markets Consolidation Programme met with the Chair of the Markets All-Party Parliamentary Group (who has agreed to sponsor the Bill) to discuss procedural aspects of the City Corporation's plans.

Parliamentary and Government inquiries (Objective 3)

6. Working with colleagues in Innovation & Growth the Office is preparing submissions to several select committee inquiries, including UK-China trade (International Trade Committee), the UK's strategic engagement in Africa (Foreign Affairs Committee), and prosperity, peace and development in sub-Saharan Africa (Lords International Relations Committee).
7. A submission is also being prepared in collaboration with Markets & Consumer Protection for the EFRA Committee inquiry into puppy smuggling.
8. In cooperation with IG, GSMD, the Barbican and other stakeholders, a response to the Immigration White Paper consultation is being prepared.

Responding to issues raised in Parliament (Objective 4)

9. Written parliamentary questions have been drafted for submission in conjunction with colleagues in Markets & Consumer Protection. They relate to Corporation 'no deal' Brexit concerns from the perspective of port health and animal health services.

Enhancing Parliamentary engagement (Objective 5)

10. The Office prepared the briefing for, and attended, the Policy Chair's meeting on 26 September with Chuka Umunna (Lib Dem), spokesperson for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, International Development and International Trade.
11. Preparations are in hand for a meeting on 21 October in the House of Commons to discuss the Lord Mayor's role in supporting commercial diplomacy. Business representatives, stakeholders and politicians will be invited.
12. The Office is organising a private roundtable on 22 October with the Commons International Trade Select Committee (chaired by Angus MacNeil), to discuss UK-US-China trade and the City Corporation's international engagement programme. The Policy Chair will lead a delegation of industry representatives from a variety of financial services sub-sectors with a particular interest in these markets.
13. Discussions have been had with Treasury Select Committee clerks regarding the Committee's forward programme of work, following the appointment of its Chair, Nicky Morgan, as the new DCMS Secretary of State. The Office will seek a meeting between the new Chair and the Chair of Policy and Resources when the House returns in October. Letters have been prepared outlining the City Corporation's key priorities which will be sent by the Policy Chair to all of the candidates pre-election.

GLA and the devolved institutions (Objective 6)

14. Working with Open Spaces, the Office is preparing a submission to the GLA Environment Committee's inquiry into the environment and Londoners' quality of life.
15. Caroline Russell (Green), the chair of the GLA's Environment Committee, has accepted a meeting, arrangements for which are ongoing, to brief her on the City Corporation's environmental initiatives, including the air quality Bill.

Key priorities over the next month

16. To ensure the air quality proposals are configured to fit into the new parliamentary timetable.
17. Work will continue in support of the markets' relocation programme and the introduction of private bill.

18. Following the Government reshuffle, the Office is undertaking a re-assessment of key parliamentary stakeholders, with a mind to enhancing City Corporation parliamentary engagement across a range of issues. In addition, meetings are being planned between the Policy Chair and the following MPs:

- 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;
- Ed Davey (Lib Dem), Treasury Spokesperson;
- SNP Westminster Group – a private roundtable with industry to discuss global trade in financial services.

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Appendix: 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 Member's Bill on air quality.
3. Make submissions to Parliamentary committee inquiries into relevant City Corporation issues in collaboration with the Economic Development Office (now Innovation and Growth) 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.
6. Enhance engagement with the Greater London Assembly and the devolved institutions on matters of interest to the City through briefings and submissions to relevant inquiries.