

Committee Public Relations and Economic Development Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee	Dated: 03 December 2019
Subject: Corporate Affairs Update	Public
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Summary

This report provides a monthly update of the Corporate Affairs Team's activities in supporting the City of London 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 Lord Mayor and Policy Chair.

The activities documented in this report focus largely on those led 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.

General Election

3. Ahead of the General Election taking place on 12th December 2019, the Corporate Affairs Team:
 - a. Drafted the internal guidance for the City Corporation regarding the pre-election period
 - b. Has been monitoring the parties' political campaigns
 - c. Worked with the REM office on a matrix summarising different parties' manifesto pledges
 - d. Worked on preparing the necessary updates to the CRM in terms of political turnover
 - e. Consulted the relevant departments on priority areas to include when seeking to engage with the new Government.
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

6. Hotel accommodation and the dinner venues have been secured for the 2020 Autumn Party Conferences.
7. 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

8. The Corporate Affairs Team:
 - a. Provided support for the Policy Chair's attendance at Cumberland Lodge and the Ditchley Park Conference
 - b. Provided support for the LM's visit to Leeds and Manchester
 - c. Provided support for the Policy Chair speaking at:
 - The Institutional Investors dinner
 - The reception for the Women of the Future
 - The Lord Mayor's Show Ambassador's lunch
 - The Green Finance Summit
 - The Central London Forward inclusive growth launch

- An address to the Livery
 - The Association of Economic Representatives in London (AERL) event
 - d. Provided support for Deputy Chairs and Members of the Policy and Resources Committee speaking at:
 - a Freedom Ceremony
 - a Fintech roundtable
 - a Reform dinner
 - A one-day conference with the English Cricket Board
 - The 'Everything in Sport Women's Edition' conference.
 - e. Provided support to the Chamberlain for a Freedom Ceremony
9. 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

10. The Corporate Affairs Team assists the City Corporation's overseas engagements undertaken by the Policy Chair and Lord Mayor. The Corporate Affairs Team has:
- a. Provided support for the Policy Chair's speeches for her visit to China.
11. 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

12. The Corporate Affairs Team seeks to maintain and develop the City Corporation's engagement with communities, bodies and authorities across London.
- a. The Policy Chair attended and spoke at the Centre for London's annual London Conference on 5 November, of which the City Corporation was a major sponsor.
 - b. The Policy Chair continues to engage with London boroughs and will be seeing the leaders of Lewisham, Merton, Tower Hamlets and Wandsworth.
 - c. The Corporate Affairs team is involved with preparations for the London Government Dinner in January.
 - d. The Policy Chair was briefed ahead of her monthly attendance at London Councils Leaders' Committee.
 - e. London Mayoral candidates have been approached to engage with our business stakeholders ahead of the London Mayoral Election.
13. 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

14. As part of the City Corporation's engagement with think tanks and other external organisations, the Corporate Affairs Team:
 - a. Organised and supported the Policy Chair's attendance at Cumberland Lodge (CER), alongside Nick Collier, and the Ditchley Conference (CPS)
 - b. Finalised the organisation of the Battle of Ideas Festival, held in the Barbican
 - c. Met with Reform, Bright Blue, Centre for Cities and Demos to exchange on areas of mutual interest.
15. 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.

Sport

16. As part of the City Corporation's Sport engagement programme, the Corporate Affairs team:
 - a. Co-hosted a one-day conference with the English Cricket Board on improving access to cricket opportunities in London. The Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park Management Committee welcomed guests at the start of the day.
 - b. Arranged for the Vice Chair of Policy to speak on a panel at the 'Everything in Sport Women's Edition' conference. The panel considered ways of achieving equality within sport.

Priorities for the next quarter

17. Priorities for the Corporate Affairs Team over the next four months are:
 - a. Monitoring the political environment and preparing for a General Election, with associated engagement opportunities
 - b. Finalising the London Borough meetings for the Policy Chair
 - c. Preparing a series of engagements ahead of the London Mayoral elections and after
 - d. Continuing with the sports engagement programme which is the subject of a separate report to this Committee, every quarter.