

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee	19 February 2020
<b>Subject:</b> Parliamentary Team Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Paul Double, City Remembrancer	<b>For Information</b>
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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.

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 3 December.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

### Main Report

#### Bills reintroduced since the Queen's Speech

1. Two Bills originally launched prior to the General Election have been reintroduced. They are substantially the same as the earlier versions (already reported to the relevant service Committee) save that the Agriculture Bill now requires a 5-yearly report to Parliament on 'food security' and the Fisheries Bill requires the creation of 'fisheries management plans' to help maintain sustainable limits.

#### Legislation pertaining to the UK's future EU relationship (Objective 1)

2. After months of Parliamentary gridlock, the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill received royal assent on 23 January with remarkably little fanfare. The coming months will see the government introduce legislation in several areas particularly affected by the UK's departure from the EU. These include, the Trade Bill, the Immigration Bill, the Financial Services Bill and the Private International Law Bill.

#### City Corporation legislation (Objective 2)

3. The Emissions Reduction (Local Authorities in London) Bill had its First Reading on 13 January in the Lords. A date for its Second Reading is yet to be scheduled.
4. 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 continues to be developed. In September, the Remembrancer and Director of the Markets Consolidation Programme met with the

Chair of the Markets All-Party Parliamentary Group (who agreed to promote the Bill) to discuss procedural aspects of the City Corporation's plans. In October, the Remembrancer wrote to relevant MPs, All-Party Parliamentary Groups, Committees, and GLA Assembly Members to draw their attention to the public consultation. The Office continues to provide extensive strategic advice and legal opinions for the programme.

### **Parliamentary and Government inquiries (Objective 3)**

5. To better reflect the composition of the House following their general election victory, Conservative members will be chairing two more Select Committees (Transport and Science & Technology) in this Parliament. Elections took place on 29 January and returned the following chairmen to Committees of interest to the Corporation.

Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Lab):	Rachel Reeves
Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Con):	Julian Knight
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Con):	Neil Parish
Exiting the EU (Lab):	Hilary Benn
Foreign Affairs (Con):	Tom Tugendhat
Home Affairs (Lab):	Yvette Cooper
Housing, Communities and Local Government (Lab):	Clive Betts
International Development (Lab):	Sarah Champion
International Trade Committee (SNP):	Angus Brendan MacNeil
Justice (Con):	Sir Robert Neill
Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs (Con):	William Wragg
Transport (Con):	Huw Merriman
Treasury (Con):	Mel Stride
Northern Ireland Affairs (Con):	Simon Hoare
Scottish Affairs (SNP):	Pete Wishart
Welsh Affairs (Con):	Stephen Crabb

### **Responding to issues raised in Parliament (Objective 4)**

6. With assistance from colleagues in Innovation and Growth and Corporate Affairs, a briefing was prepared for the City's new MP, Nickie Aiken, which covered what the financial services sector wanted from the approaching UK-EU future relationship negotiations. The briefing was requested by Aiken following an invitation from Radio 4's *Week in Westminster* (aired 1 February) to represent the views of the City in a discussion on balancing the demands of rural and urban communities in EU trade talks.

### **Enhancing Parliamentary engagement (Objective 5)**

7. The Office has prepared five separate briefings for members since the return of Parliament. These include a briefing on the Corporation's contribution to culture for Conor McGinn in advance of the Westminster Hall debate on the contribution of music to the economy and society, a briefing on green finance for Baroness Quin in advance of a Lords PQ on the environmental aspects of government trade policy, a briefing on homelessness in the City for Nickie Aiken in advance of the Labour debate on homelessness, a briefing for several MPs in advance of the debate on Global Britain, and a briefing for Lord Hope in advance of a Lords PQ on the threats posed by pests and diseases to native trees in the UK.
8. The new chair of the Financial Services and Markets APPG, Bim Afolami, had an introductory meeting with members of the Industry Advisory Group on 5 February at

the offices of UK Finance. The Parliamentary Engagement Officer attended in place of the Policy Chair who was unable to attend.

9. There is an ongoing conversation with the Clerk of the Lords EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee about finding a suitable time for the Policy Chair to give evidence at a future session on financial services after Brexit.
10. The Office is organising a roundtable for the end of the month with senior SNP members to discuss global trade and competitiveness. The Policy Chair will lead a delegation of industry representatives from a range of financial services firms.
11. The Remembrancer, alongside the Deputy Policy Chair and senior officers from the City Bridge Trust, Innovation and Growth and Corporate Affairs, held an introductory meeting with Nickie Aiken on 7 February at Guildhall. This was an opportunity for Aiken to learn about several strands of the Corporation's work and for the Corporation to find out about her Parliamentary ambitions.

#### **GLA and the devolved institutions (Objective 6)**

12. On 15 January, the Policy Chair spoke alongside Chris Bates (Head of Financial Regulation Practice at Clifford Chance) and Nicole Sykes (the CBI's Head of EU Negotiations) to the GLA EU Exit Working Group about London's financial services sector after Brexit.
13. A date has been set for a meeting with the chair of the GLA's Environment Committee, Caroline Russell (Green), to brief her on the City Corporation's environmental initiatives, including the air quality Bill.

#### **Key priorities over the next month**

14. Work will continue in support of the markets' relocation programme and the introduction of a private bill.
15. Following the general election, the Office has undertaken a re-assessment of key Parliamentary stakeholders. Meetings are being planned between the Policy Chair and the new intake of MPs, the new Select Committee chairmen and with the chairmen of APPGs of interest to the Corporation.
16. The Chancellor, Sajid Javid, is due to deliver his first Budget on March 11

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## **Appendix: Parliamentary Team Objectives**

1. Propose amendments or new clauses to EU-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.