

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee	24 April 2018
<b>Subject:</b> Political engagement update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	<b>For Information</b>
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### Summary

This report has been prepared to update Members on political activities of the City of London Corporation, including engagements undertaken on behalf of the organisation by the Chairman of Policy and Resources and the Lord Mayor.

The updates covered in this report span the period since the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee last met on 26 February 2018 until 9 April 2018.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

### Main Report

The political update is presented thematically and is not ordered in terms of importance. It aims to provide an overview of developments and engagements relating to the City Corporation's public policy commitments.

### Brexit

On 2 March Mansion House hosted the Prime Minister's speech on the United Kingdom's future economic partnership with the European Union. This occasion therefore allowed both the Policy Chairman and the Lord Mayor to meet the Prime Minister at Mansion House.

### Domestic engagement

The Policy Chairman and the Lord Mayor spoke to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Foreign Secretary at the Business and Investment Dinner and Easter Banquet respectively.

The Policy Chairman also met the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, the Chair of the Treasury Select Committee and Minister for Trade and Investment.

The Lord Mayor also met the Mayor of London and the Governor of the Bank of England respectively, conducting interviews with the pair concerning the 'Business of Trust', while a meeting was also held with Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice.

### **International engagement**

Between 4-6 March the Policy Chairman, together with the City Corporation's Special Representative to the European Union, Jeremy Browne, visited Warsaw, Poland, and held meetings with senior representatives of Polish government and business.

Between 12-15 March the Policy Chairman attended MIPIM where meetings and events were held with international business leaders and figures of UK government at local, regional and national level.

As part of the annual international engagement programme, the Lord Mayor also visited Portugal and Spain between 4-8 March. (*Press release available here: <https://news.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lord-mayor-to-promote-economic-relationship-with-portugal-and-spain/>*).

Following the visit to Portugal and Spain the Lord Mayor then visited China, meeting senior representatives of Chinese government and business between 19-27 March. A meeting with the Secretary of State for International Trade also took place during the visit. (*Press release available here: <https://news.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lord-mayor-travels-to-china-to-boost-economic-cooperation-and-trade/>*).

### **Upcoming: International Engagement**

As part of the annual international engagement programme both the Policy Chairman and the Lord Mayor will be visiting the United States of America. The Policy Chairman will be visiting New York and Washington D.C. between 8-11 May, while the Rt Hon Lord Mayor will be visiting Boston and Chicago at a later date.

### **Upcoming: Commonwealth Business Forum**

The Commonwealth Business Forum [CBF] is scheduled to take place between 16-18 April in Guildhall and Mansion House. It includes a political engagement programme for both the Policy Chairman and the Lord Mayor.

For the first time since 1997, the UK will host Commonwealth leaders for the 25<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and will take place following the CBF.

### **Conclusion**

The period between 26 February – 12 April includes political developments and engagements of interest to the City Corporation's initiatives in public policy that are of local, regional, national and international relevance.

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