

Committee(s)	Dated:
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee	28 June 2018
Subject: Parliamentary Team update	Public
Report of: Paul Double, City Remembrancer	For Information
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Summary

This report has been prepared to update Members on key elements of the Parliamentary Team's activity in support of the City of London Corporation's political and parliamentary engagement.

The updates covered in this report span the period since the last meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee on 29 May.

Members should note that both Parliament and the GLA were in recess for a week from 28 May.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Legislation

1. At the time of writing, the EU (Withdrawal) Bill is in 'ping pong' and is the subject of a separate report to your Committee.
2. This is the only Bill making active progress through parliament of significant interest to the City at present.

Select Committees

3. The Office made arrangements, working closely with EDO, for IRSG Chair Mark Hoban's evidence session before the European Scrutiny Committee on EU withdrawal and financial services on 6 June. He appeared alongside Ronnie Kent (UK Finance) and Barney Reynolds (Shearman and Sterling).

Debates and briefings

4. The Office provided a briefing to Baroness Falkner (Lib Dem), Chair of the Lords EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee, for a debate on the Committee's report on 'Brexit – the future of financial services regulation and supervision', during which the IRSG's proposals for mutual market access were discussed. Quoting the Policy Chairman, Baroness Falkner emphasised during the debate that financial services

firms needed three things: “certainty, stability and proportionality”. The Minister Lord Bates re-emphasised the UK’s commitment to high regulatory standards, and the Government’s preference for a post-Brexit system of mutual recognition for financial services access.

5. A briefing was provided to Baroness Neville-Rolfe (Con) for a parliamentary question on risks to the creative sector as a result of Brexit, tabled for 20 June.

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

6. Alderman Sir Roger Gifford appeared before the APPG on Climate Change on 5 June to report on the Green Finance Taskforce’s recently published recommendations. He highlighted the modern approach to green finance which encapsulated risks and opportunities, in addition to a ‘moral imperative’ to act. The meeting was chaired by Shadow Treasury Minister Clive Lewis (Lab).

The GLA & the Regions

7. Members of the GLA Environment Committee were sent a briefing on the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the Barbican, and on the City Corporation’s decision to source 100% renewable energy from October 2018.
8. Caroline Russell (Green), Chair of the Environment Committee, was briefed on the All Change at Bank project, on the Corporation’s electric vehicle charging infrastructure placement policy, and on the Corporation’s renewable energy policy. Following receipt of the Corporation’s policy on the siting of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, Russell has tabled two questions for written answer to the Mayor that quote the policy and ask whether his Electric Vehicle taskforce will produce best practice guidance that such infrastructure should be sited to protect pedestrian amenity.
9. The Clerks to the Scottish Parliament’s Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee and Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee were briefed on the City Corporation’s regional strategy. Both clerks responded positively and welcomed continued correspondence on matters of interest.

Other

10. A meeting was held in association with the Industry and Parliamentary Trust to discuss skills and apprenticeships. The Chairman of the Education Board was one of three guest speakers and the meeting was chaired by Lord Watson of Invergowrie (Lab), the Shadow Education Spokesperson in the Lords. A wide-ranging discussion took place on the challenges to skills training, with contributions from several MPs and Peers.

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