

Committee(s)	Dated:
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee	25 July 2018
Subject: Remembrancer's Office Business Objectives and Outputs 2018/19	Public
Report of: Remembrancer	For Information
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Summary

At the last meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee, Members asked for updates on how the business objectives of the Economic Development Office, the Communications Team and the Remembrancer's Office were being met.

This report sets out the objectives of the Remembrancer's Office for 2018/2019 and updates Members on how they are being met.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

1. The Remembrancer's Office's aims and objectives are set out in a two-page business plan approved by Members and is annexed.
2. The Office's overall purpose is to safeguard the position of the City of London and support its contribution to society, the economy and the environment.
3. The Office's top line objectives relate principally to the work of Parliament and the delivery of events of varying types to meet the City Corporation's objectives.

Brexit Legislation

4. The Parliamentary team, working with other departments, has continued to provide briefing and analysis to Members and officers across the range of Corporation interests but, unsurprisingly, Brexit has been the primary focus. The EU (Withdrawal) Bill received Royal Assent in June. The Remembrancer worked with Bob Neill MP (Con, Bromley & Chislehurst) and other members to table a number of amendments in the Commons stages, and in the Lords with Lord (Matthew) Carrington. The amendments were formulated in consultation with senior City

practitioners and many of them drew on a report published by the International Regulatory Strategy Group.

5. The issue of ambulatory references – the way EU law will be interpreted in contracts and other documents post-Brexit – was the subject of a government Report Stage undertaking to consult and if necessary legislate.
6. Other legislation covered has included the Trade Bill (in respect of provisions affecting current third country trade agreements), Taxation (Cross Border Trade) Bill (of potential interest in respect of customs duties), Offensive Weapons Bill (interest of the City of London Police and potentially in relation to ceremonial weaponry), Automated and Electric Vehicles Bill (in respect of a planning interest relating to charging equipment on the highway), Data Protection Bill (of relevance to the whole of the City Corporation and its data privacy obligations), Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Bill (in both of which the Chamberlain has an operational interest).

Select Committees

7. Evidence has been submitted to the following inquiries: the Treasury Committee (Women in Finance; Economic Crime; and Digital Currencies inquiries); the Lords EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee (Brexit and Food); the Lords Home Affairs Sub-Committee (Movement of People: Sports and Culture); the Environmental Audit Committee (25-Year Environment Plan); and the International Trade Committee (Trade with Australia and New Zealand). The evidence will be available on the City Corporation's website once it has been published by the relevant Committee. Prior to publication the Office can provide copies of the evidence to any interested Member.
8. Oral evidence hearings were arranged with the Lords EU Committee on Post-Brexit UK-EU Relations (Policy Chairman) and the European Scrutiny Committee on Financial Services (Mark Hoban). Support was also provided for the Policy Chairman's meeting with Yvette Cooper, Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee.

Debates and Briefings

9. Briefings have been prepared for debates on Brexit – the future of financial services regulation and supervision; risks to the creative sector; and legal services. Other topics have included Green Finance; Social Mobility; Financial Services and the Impact on the Economy; Skills for Theatre; Qatar; Importance of Tourism; Plastics and the Maritime Environment.
10. Arrangements were made for a briefing roundtable for Lib Dem frontbench MPs and Peers on 'Phase II: what should the UK be seeking in a Free Trade Agreement with the EU – perspectives from the financial services industry'. The meeting took

place on 25 April, and was led by the Policy Chairman, alongside Rachel Kent from Hogan Lovells.

GLA and the devolved institutions

11. The Office has arranged for briefing of the GLA Environment Committee on the City Corporation's plastics and water bottle initiatives and submitted evidence to the consultation on the Mayoral Economic Development Strategy. Since the Assembly's return, a briefing has been provided to the Transport Committee concerning the decision-making process for the Bank junction scheme. Assembly Members were sent a briefing on the City Bridge Trust's new funding programme, Bridging Divides. City Hall officers with responsibility for Brexit and financial services policy have been briefed on the latest City lines and on the recent report on immigration released by TheCityUK.
12. Members of the GLA Environment Committee were briefed 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. 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.
13. The Clerks to the Scottish Parliament's Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee and Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committees have been briefed on the City Corporation's regional strategy.

All Party Parliamentary Groups

14. The Office supported an APPG London panel event on social enterprise and charity, at which Alderman Alison Gowman was a guest speaker. The Office, in conjunction with EDO, supported the Lord Mayor's appearance before the China APPG on 22 May, where he reported back on his recent trip to China and Hong Kong. The Lord Mayor was joined on the panel by Sherry Madera, Special Advisor for Asia. 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. Communication has taken place with both the China APPG and the India APPG to discuss future engagement promoting the work of the City Corporation's Asia offices. Support has also been given for Markets and Consumer Protection officers giving evidence to the APPG for its Working at Height inquiry.

City events

15. In April this year the City Corporation hosted a Banquet on the occasion of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and the Commonwealth Business Forum. The President of South Africa made a keynote speech at the Banquet.

Though not without challenges, the FCO and DIT, Commonwealth bodies and business organisations provided positive feedback on both the City Corporation's hosting of the Forum and the Banquet.

16. The Parliamentary Terrace Reception, hosted formally by Mark Field, took place on 16 May. This attracted a relatively high turnout and a wide range of guests, including a number of senior Ministers and frontbenchers. The event provides an opportunity for the City Corporation to engage with Parliamentarians on a cross party basis and across both Houses. Possible dates for 2019 are currently being identified.
17. 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.
18. The Office has worked with foreign Embassies and High Commissions as well as business partners such as UK Finance and the British Council to deliver a number of business focused events. These have included keynote speeches by the Prime Minister of Greece and the Finance Minister of Canada, and a round table discussion on soft power.

Conclusion

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Appendix

High-Level Business Plan

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