

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee	25 July 2018
<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 has been prepared to update 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 spans the period since the last meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee on 28 June.

Members should note that both the GLA and Parliament will be in recess for the summer from 20 July and 25 July respectively.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

### Main Report

#### Legislation

1. The EU (Withdrawal) Bill received Royal Assent on 26 June. Parliament is now awaiting the publication of a White Paper on the Withdrawal Agreement and Implementation Bill. The separate White Paper setting out the Government's negotiating position is referred to in paragraph 14.
2. The Taxation (Cross-border Trade) Bill and the Trade Bill returned to the Commons for remaining stages of debate on 16 July and 17 July respectively. The former has now passed all its Commons stages, the Government having narrowly avoided defeat after accepting four Conservative backbench amendments. These include an amendment which could prevent the UK from collecting tariffs for the EU without a reciprocal agreement, and another to make the EU's 'backstop' on customs impossible by ruling out a border in the Irish Sea. At the time of writing, the Trade Bill is subject to a number of amendments, including relating to Ministerial use of so-called 'Henry VIII powers', and the UK's membership of the EU Customs Union and the European Economic Area.
3. The Automated and Electric Vehicles Bill, intended to increase the number of electric charging points and regulate insurance for automated vehicles, is of

interest to the City because of attempts by TfL to change the Bill so as to give the London Mayor direct planning powers to permit the installation of charging points on borough land. The Office worked with London Councils to ensure parliamentarians were aware of the progress made by boroughs regarding the installation of charging points and the importance of locally-based planning controls. The TfL amendments were unsuccessful. The Bill will be reported to the Planning and Transport Committee following Royal Assent.

4. Briefings were supplied on the Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Bill – the Bill is intended to change the system of rating for business premises where two or more properties, for example floors in a building, that are occupied or owned by the same person and are adjacent. The Bill is a response to a court decision which changed the way in which business premises are rated. In taking this step, the Bill will return business premises rating to its historic arrangement. The Bill will be reported to the next Finance Committee.
5. The Office has been monitoring the progress of the Offensive Weapons Bill, which seeks to criminalise the sale of ‘corrosive products’ to persons under the age of 18 and the possession of ‘corrosive products’ in public. The Bill also makes provision relating to knives and create a new offence of possession of an offensive weapon, which will include so-called ‘zombie knives’. The Bill will be reported to the September meeting of the Police Committee.
6. The Office has also been monitoring the progress of the Counter Terrorism and Border Security Bill, which proposes to create new terrorist offences, amend the law relating to Anti-Terrorism Traffic Regulation Orders, and allow local authorities to make referrals to Prevent panels. The Bill will be reported to the September meeting of the Police Committee.

### **Select Committees**

7. Evidence was submitted to the Scottish Affairs Committee’s inquiry into Brexit and trade and investment, highlighting the City Corporation’s regional strategy and engagement with Scottish financial services.
8. The Office has been following the work of the European Scrutiny Committee, further to Mark Hoban’s appearance in June, reporting on both the City Minister and the Trade Minister’s evidence sessions on EU withdrawal.
9. The Office continues to monitor the Treasury Committee’s inquiry into Economic Crime, reporting on evidence sessions with the NCA and SFO.

### **Debates and briefings**

10. The Office facilitated a briefing from the Policy Chairman to Lord Boswell (non-aff), Chair of the Lords EU Committee, for a debate on the Committee’s report on ‘UK-EU relations after Brexit’, during which Brexit Minister Lord Callanan stated that the Government “had been clear that they want a comprehensive and ambitious deal with the EU... [with] access to each other’s markets, based on maintaining the

same regulatory outcomes over time with a mechanism that determines proportionate consequences where those outcomes are not maintained.”

11. A briefing note on EDO’s latest publications – *Building a Bridge* and *The Commonwealth Connection* – was provided to a number of MPs and Peers, with positive responses to the reports received from International Trade Committee Chair Angus MacNeil (SNP), International Relations Committee Chair Lord Howell (Con), and International Trade Spokesperson Lord Purvis (LD), among others.
12. A briefing was provided to Environmental Audit Committee Chair Mary Creagh (Lab), Transport Committee Chair Lilian Greenwood (Lab), EFRA Committee Chair Neil Parish (Con) and member of the Health and Social Care Committee Andrew Selous (Con) for a backbench business debate on improving air quality.
13. A briefing was provided to Stephen Hammond (Con) on the City Corporation’s port health Brexit interests for a Westminster Hall debate on customs arrangements after the UK leaves the EU.
14. At the time of writing, preparations are being made to produce a briefing outlining the City Corporation’s latest positions following the publication of the Government’s ‘The Future Relationship between the UK and the EU’ White Paper, to brief MPs and Peers for separate debates on EU-UK future relations, scheduled for 18 July and 23 July respectively. The briefing highlights the City Corporation’s response to the Government’s opting for a model of ‘expanded’ equivalence rather than mutual market recognition as its formal negotiating position.

### **All-Party Parliamentary Groups**

15. A date has been agreed with the India APPG to hold a breakfast panel event in October for the Lord Mayor and the City Corporation’s Special Adviser on Asia to update parliamentarians on the City Corporation’s overseas work. Preparations will continue to finalise the detail of the event.

### **The GLA & the devolved institutions**

16. A response was submitted to the consultation on the Mayor’s Culture Strategy, drawing on evidence from across the Corporation. The response noted that considerable emphasis is placed on culture in the Square Mile and welcomed the Mayor’s adoption of a broad definition of culture. The response made suggestions as to how participation in cultural activities could be encouraged, and welcomed opportunities to collaborate on the Mayor’s Cultural Strategy in future.

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