



Public Relations Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee

Date: MONDAY, 24 JANUARY 2022
Time: 11.30 am
Venue: INFORMAL HYBRID PUBLIC MEETING (ACCESSIBLE REMOTELY)

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chair)	Alderman Sir David Wootton
Christopher Hayward (Deputy Chairman)	Alderman & Sheriff Nicholas Lyons
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Dominic Christian
Deputy Tom Sleigh	Alderman Prem Goyal
Tijs Broeke	Deputy Edward Lord
Anne Fairweather	Andrew Mayer
Alderman Timothy Hailes	Sir Michael Snyder
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark	

Enquiries: Polly Dunn
polly.dunn@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Accessing the virtual public meeting

Members of the public can observe this public meeting at the below link:

https://youtu.be/UDp_QXgVdk

This meeting will be a hybrid meeting with participation virtually and from a physical location. Any views reached by the Committee today will have to be considered by the Town Clerk after the meeting in accordance with the Court of Common Council's Covid Approval Procedure who will make a formal decision having considered all relevant matters. This process reflects the current position in respect of the holding of formal Local Authority meetings and the Court of Common Council's decision of 16th December 2021, to recommence hybrid meetings and take formal decisions through a delegation to the Town Clerk and other officers nominated by him after the informal meeting has taken place and the will of the Committee is known in open session. Details of all decisions taken under the Covid Approval Procedure will be available online via the City Corporation's webpages.

A recording of the public meeting will be available via the above link following the end of the public meeting for up to one municipal year. Please note: Online meeting recordings do not constitute the formal minutes of the meeting; minutes are written and are available on the City of London Corporation's website. Recordings may be edited, at the discretion of the proper officer, to remove any inappropriate material.

John Barradell
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Part 1 - Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
3. **MINUTES**
To agree the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 18 October 2021.

For Decision
(Pages 5 - 10)
4. **MEDIA UPDATE**
Report of the Director of Communications.

For Information
(Pages 11 - 22)
5. **CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE**
Report of the Director of Communications.

For Information
(Pages 23 - 30)
6. **UPDATE ON FILMING ACTIVITY IN THE CITY OF LONDON**
Report of the Director of Communications.

For Information
(Pages 31 - 34)
7. **PARLIAMENTARY TEAM UPDATE**
Report of the Remembrancer.

For Information
(Pages 35 - 44)
8. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**
9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

10. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

MOTION - That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

For Decision

Part 2 - Non-Public Agenda

11. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE SUB COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

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PUBLIC RELATIONS SUB (POLICY & RESOURCES) COMMITTEE

Monday, 18 October 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Public Relations Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 3.00 pm

Present

Members:

Christopher Hayward (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Alderman Sir David Wootton
Anne Fairweather	Alderman Prem Goyal
Alderman Timothy Hailes	Deputy Edward Lord

Officers:

Bob Roberts	- Director of Communications, Town Clerk's Department
Eugenie De Naurois	- Head of Corporate Affairs, Town Clerk's Department
Sarah Bridgman	- Corporate Affairs, Town Clerk's Department
Sam Hutchings	- Sports Engagement, Town Clerk's Department
Richard Messingham	- Town Clerk's Department
Polly Dunn	- Town Clerk's Department
Paul Double	- City Remembrancer
Paul Wright	- Deputy Remembrancer
Bruce Hunt	- Remembrancer's Department
Bukola Soyombo	- Chief Operating Officer's Department
James Gibson	- Chief Operating Officer's Department

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Catherine McGuinness, Alderman Vincent Keaveny, Tijs Broeke, Karina Dostalova and Deputy Tom Sleigh.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 29 April 2021 be approved as a correct record.

4. PARTY CONFERENCE UPDATE

Members received a report of the Director of Communications regarding the Party Conference Update.

First and foremost, Members expressed their sincere thanks for the efforts made by officers to organise the various engagements across the party

conferences, it was agreed that significant improvements had been made in recent years. The City's involvement was far more established and was being recognised as part of London leadership more widely.

Concerns were raised about the accommodation in Manchester. It was felt the service was not at a satisfactory standard. Officers agreed that alternatives should be sought for future years.

Members suggested that it would be useful to come together on a daily basis, even for 30 minutes, to provide a debrief for their respective engagements that day. This would be in addition to the meeting on the first night, which was considered a helpful feature in the timetable.

It was also requested that arranging individual programmes would be beneficial in future. Wider membership beyond the Chair and Deputy Chairman would then have the opportunity to join specific fringe events, allowing them to learn as well as contribute. Resources could be deployed more effectively. It was noted that this year there were fewer private events.

The dinners were considered very valuable and there had been a lot of positive feedback received by attendees. It was noted that the two events drew in different audiences, with both feeding into different areas of our corporate objectives. There was, however, concern that the Chair's speech at both events had been too similar, especially given the number of guests who attended both. They also should have been better tailored, with a relevant angle for the differing audiences.

The key themes from the conferences were shared under separate cover to Members of the Court of Common Council.

Main highlights of the Liberal Democrats' virtual Conference were party leader Ed Davey's speech and, as an organisation, a successful City-organised roundtable on how local government can reach its goals for net zero.

At the Labour Conference, there were less attendees than in previous (pre-Covid) years. The Corporate Affairs Team felt the events were a success and that the Chair had engaged key shadow front benchers and spoke alongside them on the subject of financial services and contributions the sector can make towards sustainable finance.

At the Conservative Conference, there was a buoyant atmosphere with positive engagement that was more business focussed.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

5. CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE

Members received a report of the Town Clerk regarding Corporate Affairs.

There was a discussion on the importance on ensuring that fraud is included within the Online Safety Bill and the ongoing work of the Corporate Affairs

Team, alongside the City of London Police and the Remembrancer's Department. The Team had also been engaged with relevant Trade Associations.

A forward look be re-added to the report in future.

It was confirmed that matters regarding the City's elections were and would continue to be reported to Policy & Resources Committee, not the Sub-Committee.

Members and officers drew attention to levelling up. It was noted that this should not mean the 'levelling down' of the South-East. Recognising this, it was agreed that the City should ensure it acts as a helpful contributor to the campaign, not an opponent. It was noted that experiences within London were very varied.

Members requested source material they could use and call upon to provide examples of what the City was doing in order to contribute to the levelling up agenda. Examples including the Market co-location programme and academies were raised.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

6. **SIX MONTH MEDIA UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Director of Communications regarding the six month media update.

The Director of Communications gave three observations: 1) that there was a perceived change in tone surrounding Covid-19, with the negativity surrounding return to the office now more positive and encouraging; 2) that climate change continued to be a struggle, with a lack of media interest; and 3) with police and the fraud agenda, closer working relationships had been established, resulting in greater coverage and results for our political agenda.

A question was raised as to whether the City should reconsider the use of an unnamed spokesperson in relation to announcements that require technical expertise. This would possible mitigate any doubt surrounding the qualifications of any given commentator. The Director of Communications agreed to look into this.

Greater trend analysis was sought on media coverage in this period compared to previous periods. It was also suggested that any coverage that did not meet the criteria to be included in the analysis section, could be 'swept' into a smaller summary category.

On Climate change, the view was that very little extra could be done to resolve the issue around climate change coverage without hard edged policy initiatives. The plan was to continue to plug away at COP and continue trying.

Following a discussion on Corporate reputational risk it was agreed that the relevant information could feature in reports in future.

Regarding the Financial Times article concerning the incorrect assertion that the City would be repurposing office buildings to housing, officers and Members reaffirmed that the City was a business district with a vibrant and thriving offer. This message would be repeated until the misleading impression from the FT article was finally disregarded.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

7. SPORT ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Members considered a report of the Director of Communications regarding the sports engagement update.

Members all expressed their keen support for funding this work despite other challenges on City's finances. This was a valuable programme, and it was felt that in future there should be more invested in the strategic development and delivery of sporting events.

In future, it was hoped more work could be done to maximise on the potential of the City's Open Spaces and Family of Schools.

The Lord Mayor and Policy Chair's Office would continue to be involved, particularly in larger events such as the forthcoming Commonwealth Games and Women's Euros.

There was a discussion about celebrating recent British/London-based sporting champions.

RESOLVED, that Members

- note the progress being made on the City Corporation's sport engagement programme as outlined in this report; and
- agree that the Policy and Resources Committee be asked to allocate £75,000 from the Policy Initiatives Fund towards sport engagement activity for 2022/23.

8. PARLIAMENTARY TEAM UPDATE

Members received a report of the Remembrancer regarding an update from the Parliamentary Team.

A question was raised over whether the Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Bill would affect any changes to the enforced retirement age for the Court of Aldermen. The Remembrancer confirmed that the legislation was separate and the Court of Aldermen was not impacted as this would be an internal matter for the City Corporation.

On the Judicial Review and Courts Bill, a query was raised as to how the Government sought to raise the hurdles in obtaining judicial review of decisions by Government or public bodies. This had been a controversial area and whilst raised hurdles were likely as a result of the Bill, how those might manifest was yet to be determined.

There was discussion on the Professional Qualifications Bill and what happens to those that do have the necessary qualifications that need to be recognised in order to be able to work in the country. Until its enactment, the status quo remains in place.

Thanks were issued to the Remembrancer's Department for the work undertaken on the Environment Bill. They moved at speed to arrange key meetings and agree amendments with London Councils in very short order.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

9. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

There were two questions.

Having just engaged with MPs at the party conferences, a Member noted that there used to be a regular formal programme of outreach including lunches and dinners Guildhall. The Remembrancer agreed to work with Corporate Affairs to continue to provide the same offers for engagement as the City Corporation had done before.

The first concerned sports engagement and where its formal home was within the City's Committee structure. It was confirmed that Sports Engagement was in the Sub-Committee's terms of reference. Although, it was noted that Sports Development was a distinct function that was not currently provided for explicitly under the Committee structure.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was one item of urgent business: Members requested more frequent meetings, ideally every two-months.

11. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

The Sub-Committee approved the non-public minutes without comment in public session.

12. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 29 April 2021, be approved as an accurate record.

13. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE SUB COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 4.13 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Polly Dunn
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Committee(s): Public Relations Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee	Dated: 24 January 2022
Subject: Media Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	[1-12]
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	For Information
Report author: Sanjay Odedra, Head of Media (Financial Services)	

Summary

This report summarises the media output from the City of London Corporation's Media Team between October 2021 and January 2022.

It gives a quantitative analysis of our print, broadcast and digital reach.

It then gives details of the subjects which generated significant media coverage about the City Corporation and the Square Mile and a qualitative analysis on whether the tone and content has been mainly positive, negative or neutral.

Unsurprisingly, most coverage focused on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the negative impact of the Plan B restrictions and working from home guidance on Square Mile businesses that rely on footfall.

The Policy Chair's letter to the Chancellor calling for business support pre-empted the Chancellor announcing a £1bn package and positioned us as proactively and urgently responding to the fresh restrictions.

There was also extensive and largely positive coverage of the new Lord Mayor taking office, the Lord Mayor's Show, COP26, the Barbican External Review and accolades for our Open Spaces.

Details are below.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Main Report

Quantitative Analysis

1. The Weekly Media Summary produced every Friday measures and records the main print, broadcast and digital media output of the Media Team. It is distributed to Members and senior officers.
2. This report collates and summarises the findings of the Weekly Media Summary from mid-October 2021 and early January 2022.

Print

3. There have been more than 262 articles relating to the City of London Corporation in national, regional and local newspapers.
4. Advertising Value Equivalent (equivalent if we paid for coverage) is £2,606,785 (this excludes radio, TV broadcasting and international print coverage). By comparison, the AVE for the six-month period between April and October 2021 was £6,259,183.
5. Additionally, there have been at least 85 articles in international media which are not collated by the cuttings agency and which are not included in the AVE figure.

Broadcast

6. There have been at least 34 pieces of broadcast media coverage achieved including The Today Programme, BBC London News, Bloomberg Radio, CNBC and Sky News.

Digital

7. The corporate Twitter feed now has 55,800 followers - up by 2,000 since the last report. For comparison Westminster Council now has 24,900 followers.
8. Our corporate Facebook page has 11,214 followers slightly up from 11,147. Westminster Council now has 5,855.
9. Our corporate LinkedIn page now has 29,017 followers, up by 1,869 followers. This is more followers than any London borough.
10. Our paid for COVID-19 booster campaign – based on and to promote the official NHS booster campaign – has, at time of writing, reached 9,994 users on LinkedIn and 405,440 on Facebook.
11. The most visited page on the corporate website between October 2021 and January 2022 was the COVID-19 testing information page with 77,621 views.

12. Our website climbed the Q4 Sitemorse UK Local Government Index to 25th place, up 65 places. The index covers a range of issues including accessibility, search engine optimisation, email links, code quality and performance.

Subject Details and Qualitative Analysis of Media Coverage

COVID-19

- a. The majority of coverage on COVID-19 focused on speculation about fresh restrictions amid rising cases and the Omicron variant, which culminated in the introduction of the Government's 'Plan B' in December.
- b. The Policy Chair's response to these 'Plan B' restrictions appeared on the front page of the Financial Times. Further coverage included Reuters, Sky News, Daily Mail, Yahoo News, City Matters and 180 other media outlets. She was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Today programme about her call for Government support for Square Mile SMEs in a letter sent to the Chancellor. This was also covered by the Financial Times, Daily Mail and City A.M.
- c. The Policy Chair was interviewed by BBC London Radio in a 40-minute interview on new COVID restrictions as well as other topics including TfL funding, COP26 and Brexit.
- d. The Policy Chair wrote in City A.M. calling on City workers and residents to get their COVID and flu jabs. She also wrote in City Matters urging uptake of vaccinations, tests and face masks to help keep the economy going.
- e. The Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress and the Policy Chair were featured in City Matters after they visited the Square Mile's dedicated vaccination centre to encourage Londoners to get their COVID-19 first, second, booster and flu jabs.
- f. City Matters and London Post reported that two pop-up COVID vaccination sites would be installed at Mansion House before Christmas.

Qualitative Analysis:

- a. The tone of media coverage was largely negative, reflecting the economic impact that work from home guidance will have on Square Mile businesses reliant on footfall. The Policy Chair's call on the Chancellor to help these businesses pre-empted him announcing a £1bn support package and positioned the organisation as proactively and urgently responding to the fresh restrictions.
- b. Public health messaging around vaccination and testing has been prioritised in light of the Omicron variant. These communications have sought to drive uptake across the community in line with the City Corporation's legal duty as a

category one responder to warn and inform the public under the Civil Contingencies Act. Tone and content was largely neutral.

Square Smile campaign

- a. The Evening Standard reported on the launch of the City Corporation's Square Smile campaign designed to encourage and welcome back workers to the City. The campaign was also covered by the Daily Mail, Scottish Daily Mail and MSN, while the Lord Mayor wrote a City A.M. column focusing on it.
- b. The Lord Mayor and Policy Chair were mentioned in a City A.M. report on the Square Smile campaign and the new roundel at Bank Station, to welcome workers and visitors back to the City.
- c. The campaign also used paid media advertising and worked with social media influencers to reach targeted worker audiences.
- d. In line with Government restrictions, the Square Smile campaign was paused on 10 December 2021.

Qualitative Analysis

- a. Coverage was entirely positive, which helped to support a 27% increase in Square Mile footfall in the period between the campaign launching in October and being paused last month following the Plan B restrictions being introduced.
- b. Media interest following the launch was limited due to the lack of new announcements as part of the campaign.

COP26

- a. The Green Horizon Summit – organised by the City Corporation and Green Finance Institute – was widely referenced in print, broadcast and online coverage of the financial sector's initiatives at COP26.
- b. Late Lord Mayor William Russell's keynote speech at the Green Horizon Summit was covered by City A.M., Evening Standard and Yahoo News. He also appeared on a live panel on CNBC while his City A.M. column on climate action was retweeted by the Mayor of London.
- c. The Policy Chair was interviewed by BBC World Service in Glasgow while her response to the Chancellor's speech was covered by Reuters, City A.M. and the Daily Mail. Her tweet welcoming the speech was retweeted by the Chancellor. The Policy Chair was also quoted on a front-page Evening Standard story about City bonuses for senior executives being linked to hitting

'green targets'. City A.M., London Loves Business and Relocate Magazine also ran stories quoting her.

- d. Prior to COP26, the City Corporation's announcement of a new 2040 net zero target for its combined investment portfolios was covered by Bloomberg, Yahoo News, London Loves Business, Washington Examiner and City Matters.

Qualitative Analysis

- a. Coverage was positive in an exceptionally crowded space given the number of announcements and initiatives by others at COP26. However, some reports focused on the role of City firms in financing fossil fuels following protests by Extinction Rebellion.

New Lord Mayor

- a. Lord Mayor Vincent Keaveny was interviewed live on the BBC Radio 4 Today programme about workers returning to the City, the UK's relationship with the EU and the Lord Mayor's Show. Further interviews with BBC London TV, Bloomberg Radio and BBC Good Morning Ulster reached wide audiences.
- b. A page lead in The Times featured a profile interview with the Lord Mayor. He highlighted his ambition to improve diversity across the City. He was also featured in The Irish Times, the Irish Post and Belfast Telegraph. City A.M., Sunday Mirror, City Matters, Irish Sun, Irish Central, The Guardian, Daily Mail, Bloomberg Radio and Irish Post. The Lord Mayor's first column for City A.M. argued that social mobility should be top of every boardroom agenda and set out his mayoral theme.
- c. The Lord Mayor's Banquet at Guildhall generated extensive media coverage – with over 1,000 online news, broadcast, and print stories. The coverage included Boris Johnson's keynote speech, which was featured in the Financial Times' 'Week Ahead' column, City A.M., Daily Express, The Daily Telegraph, Financial Times, Daily Mail, Inews, Independent, Reuters and the Guardian. The Lord Mayor's speech and his focus on the social component of ESG was reported by City A.M. and The Daily Telegraph.

Qualitative Analysis

- a. Very positive coverage with the Lord Mayor setting out his theme to a wide range of audiences, with a particular focus on efforts to improve diversity across the City.

Lord Mayor's Show

- a. The Lord Mayor's Show generated extensive media coverage - a total of 1,400 online news, broadcast, and print stories. Reports included a live interview by the BBC1 Lord Mayor's Show TV broadcast of an Extinction Rebellion protester, who criticised the Lord Mayor and the City of London. The broadcast had a peak audience of over one million. Further coverage in BBC Online, Metro, Independent Evening Standard, RTE, The Guardian, City Matters, Daily Mail, Observer, LBC and Sky News. Lord Mayor's Show Pageantmaster, Dominic Reid, was interviewed for ITV's London Tonight.
- b. Ahead of the Show, The Times featured an image of Lord Mayor Elect Vincent Keaveny in the State Coach during rehearsals for the Lord Mayor's Show, with further coverage in ITV's Good Morning Britain including an interview with Pageantmaster Dominic Reid. Further coverage in Time Out, Radio Times, City Matters and Londonist.

Qualitative Analysis

- a. Media coverage on the day was mixed, with some negative, and dominated by the Extinction Rebellion protest and their criticism of City firms for investing in fossil fuels. Coverage in the lead up to the Show was positive and factual in tone.

Planning and Transportation

- a. The City Corporation was referenced in coverage of the Secretary of State's decision to reject plans for the 'Tulip' tower in The Daily Telegraph, The Guardian, Mail Online, the Financial Times, Bloomberg, BBC News, BBC Radio Shropshire, Yahoo, ITV, Evening Standard, The AJ, City A.M., New Civil Engineer, PBC Today, Financial News, Building, Architect News, Construction News, Building Design, The Construction Index, Construction Enquirer and over ten other online publications.
- b. The Evening Standard, City Matters, Yahoo News, Building Design and at least ten further media outlets in the UK and internationally reported on the 70% year-on-year increase in office floorspace approved within new City developments in 2021. Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee, Alastair Moss, was quoted.
- c. Coverage of the decision to approve plans to redevelop the former Daily Express building appeared in City Matters, Londonist, Architects' Journal, Property Week, Salesground, MyLondon, Construction Enquirer, Arch20, PBC Today, and e-achitect.
- d. The City Corporation featured in City A.M. following approval for a new 24-storey office tower on Houndsditch in the Eastern Cluster. It was the Square Mile's seventh tall building to be approved in 2021. The story also featured in Relationship Science, OnLondon, Architects' Journal and Pro Landscaper.

- e. Coverage of the decision by the Planning and Transportation Committee to reject planning application for Custom House hotel development appeared in Building Design, Salesground and Building. Planning and Transportation Committee Chair Alastair Moss was quoted in The Times T2 section.
- f. Former Lord Mayor William Russell was quoted in City A.M. on the return of the Waterloo and City line to a full weekday service in November. Policy Chair Catherine McGuinness was quoted in Ian Visits, UK Today News, Evening Standard, City Matters, MSN, London News Today, and Rail UK. The service has subsequently been suspended again due to COVID related staff shortages.

Qualitative Analysis

- a. The Secretary of State's decision to reject plans for the "Tulip" tower generated widespread international coverage that referenced criticism of the scheme from the Mayor of London for it being "poorly designed".
- b. Recent figures setting out the year-on-year increase in office floorspace approved helped to show the resilience of the Square Mile office market, underlining continuing confidence from developers and investors.

Guildhall statues with links to slavery

- a. Widespread coverage of the decision at Court of Common Council to retain and contextualise statues of two figures linked to slavery – including in ITV London, The Times, Daily Express, BBC News, City AM, City Matters, Bloomberg, Reuters and Russia Today. AFP copy appeared in numerous international media including Jakarta Post and Breitbart. Statues Working Group Chair Doug Barrow was quoted in most stories. Earlier in the week, Evening Standard, BBC London News and Reuters reported on the recommendation ahead of the Court of Common Council meeting.

Qualitative Analysis

- a. Coverage was mainly factual. But a number of media outlets reported the City Corporation's commitment to host educational and cultural events that address the context of the statues and the contemporary issues they raise.

Barbican External Review

- a. The Guardian reported that the City of London Corporation has committed to "a radical transformation of culture and behaviours" at the Barbican Centre. This followed publication of an External Review into experiences of discrimination at the arts centre, an HR audit of the institution and an Action Plan in response. Chair of the Barbican Centre Board, Tom Sleight, was

quoted. Further coverage included in Evening Standard, The Times, The Daily Telegraph, City Matters, Arts Professional and The Stage. Also in over 150 UK local online articles via Press Association.

Qualitative Analysis

- a. The majority of coverage was negative in tone, but carried key messaging with reports stating the Barbican centre is taking “decisive action” to combat discrimination and has committed to “a radical transformation of culture and behaviours”.

Open Spaces

- a. The City Corporation was referenced in an extended feature in the Financial Times on the joys of Hampstead Heath, marking the 150th anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Act.
- b. City Matters led coverage of the City of London Corporation winning 15 Green Flag awards and winning Gold in the Town Category of London in Bloom. Open Spaces Committee Chairman, Oliver Sells QC, was quoted. The Epping Forest Guardian ran a story on Epping Forest winning a Green Flag and Epping Forest and Commons Committee Chairman, Graeme Doshi-Smith, was quoted. Inside Croydon reported that the City Commons had won several Green Flag awards. Further coverage in Bucks Free Press, Slough Express, Maidenhead Advertiser and Newham Recorder.
- c. The City Corporation’s Carbon Removals Project, which is part of its Climate Action Strategy, appeared in The Sun, The Express, The Scottish Daily Express, Epping Forest Guardian, New Start, Environment Journal, Pro Landscaper and This Is Local London. The reports covered a new wildflower meadow planted in the Epping Forest buffer lands, which will remove carbon from the atmosphere at the site. Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, Graeme Doshi-Smith was quoted.

Qualitative Analysis

- a. Coverage of the City Corporation’s Green Flag and London in Bloom success was very positive, showcasing the organisation as a leading provider of green spaces across London and southeast England. Media reports on the Carbon Removals Project achieved positive national coverage.

Air quality

- a. The Evening Standard reported that drivers are being urged to switch off their engines while stationary, as part of a new campaign led by the City of London Corporation and Camden Council. Chairman of the Port Health and

Environmental Services Committee, Keith Bottomley, was quoted. Further coverage in City Matters, London News Today and Highways News.

- b. City A.M., City Matters and Evening Standard reported on the Square Mile's nitrogen dioxide levels dropping by 42 per cent over the past five years, with further improvements expected through the City Corporation's Air Quality Strategy. Port Health and Environmental Services Committee Chairman, Keith Bottomley, was quoted. The story was also reported in Highways News, and Air Quality News

Qualitative Analysis

- a. Coverage on the idling engines campaign presented the City Corporation as an organisation taking bold and practical action to combat air pollution across the capital, in partnership with local authorities. Media reports on a 42% drop in Square Mile nitrogen dioxide levels was positive and factual.

Education

- a. Coverage appeared in East London Advertiser, Hackney Gazette and City Matters on the official opening of the new home for City of London Academy Shoreditch Park. Chair of the City of London Academies Trust Board, Tijs Broeke, was quoted.
- b. City of London School for Girls was named in The Times as one of the 20 best private schools in the UK. Meanwhile the City of London School and Newham Collegiate Sixth Form Centre, which is part of the City of London Academies Trust, featured in The Times list of the best schools in London.
- c. Newham Collegiate Sixth Form Centre was also mentioned in an article in The Daily Telegraph about state school students being picked for Oxford and Cambridge.

Qualitative Analysis

- a. Coverage was positive in tone and positioned the City Corporation as a leading education provider in London.

Police Authority Board

- a. The Daily Telegraph interviewed Chair of the City of London Police Authority Board, James Thomson, who called for fraud to be included in the Online Safety Bill. His comments also appeared in City Matters.

Qualitative Analysis

- a. Significant positive national coverage appeared on page two of the newspaper, reaching a large audience both in print and online on a priority issue for the Police Authority Board and the City of London Police

Sports

- a. Findings of a new report, commissioned by the City Corporation and UK Sport, which found major sport events could deliver a £4 billion 'soft power' boost, was covered by BBC London News and over 43 UK regional media titles through PA including Bristol Post.
- b. The City of London Corporation was referenced in coverage of the London Sport Awards, run in partnership with the City Corporation, in The National, Salesground, Best in You, Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard, KNews, Secure Books, South Wales Guardian and The Gazette.

Qualitative Analysis

- a. Positive media coverage of the report reached a large national and London audience, making the case for adopting a more co-ordinated UK-wide approach on sport and ensuring major sporting events are linked to trade and wider international goals.

Arts and Culture

- a. BBC covered the 'Borealis' lights display coming to Guildhall Yard this December. Chair of the City of London Corporation's Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee, Wendy Hyde, was quoted. Further coverage in The Guardian, Daily Mirror, The Daily Telegraph, ITV, Chiswick Herald, and Visit London.
- b. Coverage appeared in the Evening Standard about a new free exhibition celebrating the photography of iconic band The Jam due to open at the City Corporation's Barbican Music Library on January 14. Chair of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee, Wendy Hyde, was quoted. Photographer Derek D'Souza was also interviewed on ITV London News.

Qualitative Analysis

- a. Major positive national and London coverage of the City Corporation/GLA initiative to help attract people back to London and then Square Mile.

Charitable Giving

- a. Sky News, LBC and Magic Radio reported on an £18,000 City Bridge Trust grant to The Dot Collective for a theatre project which allows people living with dementia to see their life on stage. The scheme uses theatre to reduce isolation and reconnect people with their memories. Also covered by London Post, Brixton Buzz, Sky News, Head Topics UK, Dispatchist, Eminentra and 16 other publications.

Qualitative Analysis

- a. Significant positive national broadcast coverage aligning to the funding priorities as set out in City Bridge Trust's 'Bridging Divides' funding strategy.

Options

11. None.

Proposals

12. None.

Key Data

13. See current position.

Conclusion

14. Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Appendices

None

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Committee(s): Public Relations Sub-Committee	Dated: 24/01/2022
Subject: Corporate Affairs Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Bob Roberts, Executive Director of Communications	For Information
Report author: Tom Regan, Corporate Affairs Officer	

Summary

The below report provides a summary of the work of The Corporate Affairs Team, since the last meeting of the Public Relations Sub Committee on 18th October 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has again dominated. Alongside the delivery of important public health messages, the team have supported attempts to get more financial support for businesses in the Square Mile and reiterate the fundamental strengths of financial and professional services.

Elsewhere, there has been focus on ensuring we deliver first-class public services. We have argued for more support for Afghan citizens resettling in the UK, highlighted the importance of the Waterloo and City line and advocated for fraud and online scams to be included in the Online Safety Bill.

Our usual work of promoting the competitiveness of the City, stressing the importance of our Climate Action Strategy, and engaging to encourage sporting activity and events, continues.

Details of these activities are included in this report.

Recommendation(s)

- To note the report

Main Report

Recovery & COVID-19 Guidance

To support the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery of the Square Mile, The Corporate Affairs Team have:

1. Worked in coordination with City Corporation delivery departments to communicate public health messaging to internal and external audiences, following the rise in the UK COVID-19 threat level and the spread of the Omicron variant.
2. Drafted correspondence on behalf of the Policy Chair to the Chancellor to advocate for greater financial support for businesses within the Square Mile, specifically requesting HM Treasury to conduct a review of the way future business grants are provided, to ensure the City receives a more proportionate amount relative to the number of businesses operating within the Square Mile.
3. Provided further briefings to the Policy Chair and Lord Mayor for meetings with senior Government business advisors, where the COVID-19 recovery was discussed.
4. Supported the Policy Chair for her engagements at COVID-19 related Pan-London engagements, including the London COVID Business Forum, and London Councils executive meetings
5. Supported the Policy Chair through interventions such as the Court Policy Statement and the 'London Moving East' speech to amplify key messaging on the COVID-19 recovery, and the broader role of the Financial and Professional Sector in supporting this recovery

There are a series of strategically important engagements relating to recovery and COVID-19 to maintain and support in advance of the next meeting of the Public Relations Sub-Committee. The Corporate Affairs Team will:

6. Continue to amplify relevant public health messaging and monitor and react to future changes to COVID-19 guidance. Increase political engagement if required, to ensure businesses in the Square Mile, which may struggle, are given the necessary financial support from government.

Innovative & strong public services

To continue to advocate for and amplify the world leading public service provision in the Square Mile, The Corporate Affairs Team have:

7. Worked to help deliver urgent support to Afghanistan families and children arriving in the Square Mile. In partnership with Children & Community Services provided political engagement with Home Office and Pan-London bodies to address a number of issues relating to accommodation, education and transport. Corresponded with the relevant Minister of State to address various issues including the requirement for long term accommodation.
8. Raised the Afghanistan situation with the Member of Parliament for the Cities of London and Westminster, who then spoke of the work of the City Corporation in the House of Commons. She referenced our provision of English lessons and our work to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine to this community. In response to these remarks, the Minister of State also praised the work of the City Corporation.
9. Supported the Policy Chair in advocating for a long-term funding settlement for Transport for London services. Used important interventions, such as the 2021

London Conference to highlight the need to address this issue. Continued to correspond with TfL and the Deputy Mayor for Transport our priorities regarding the operational viability of the Waterloo and City Line.

10. Successfully advocated on behalf of the Police Authority Board Chair for recommendations pertaining to the Online Safety Bill Joint Scrutiny Report, to ensure fraud and online scams were included in the scope of the report. These changes would create a more secure regulatory environment and allow the City of London Police to take a more effective approach to fraud prevention.
11. Supported the Open Spaces department in delivering political engagement to Members of Parliament on issues pertaining to Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest.
12. Delivered political engagement to support the contribution of the City Corporation to London's cultural offer and the wider 'Quality of Life' industry in the Square Mile. This included engagements with the Deputy Mayor for Culture and supporting speaking remarks at cultural events such as the Winter Borealis at Guildhall.
13. Worked with the Markets and Major Projects teams to ensure the City Corporation was engaging with relevant stakeholders regarding the Markets co-location project.

There are a series of priorities regarding our support for the provision of public services in advance of the next meeting of the Public Relations Sub-Committee. The Corporate Affairs Team will:

14. Work with Government and Pan-London stakeholders, including with the newly appointed Deputy Mayor for Transport to address concerns relating to the TfL funding settlement, ahead of the February deadline, as well as ensuring the Waterloo and City line returns to more frequent operational levels.
15. Continue to work with the Police Authority Board to advocate on behalf of the City of London Police, as national lead force for Economic Crime, as well as for changes to the Online Safety Bill, to ensure legislation is in place to support the City of London Police to tackle fraud.

Competitiveness

To ensure London and the UK maintain a globally competitive Financial & Professional Service Sector, The Corporate Affairs Team have:

16. Provided political support to the Lord Mayor for the Lord Mayor's Banquet, and all associated civil events where there were relevant political engagements taking place
17. Advocated our strategic priorities for the Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review. Successfully ensured key asks pertaining to the establishment of an industry body for Fintech and a reduction to the Banking Surcharge were delivered within the Budget.
18. Increased our advocacy work to ensure Financial and Professional Services are factored into future UK trade policy. To achieve this, supported the Policy Chair in her engagements with the new Trade Minister and facilitated the annual CPS Margaret Thatcher Conference at the Guildhall where the Policy Chair made speaking remarks on trade policy.

19. Supported the Policy Chair through speaking remarks advocating for a more cooperative relationship between the UK and EU on the issue of Financial and Professional Services regulation. These included remarks at the City Corporations Brussels Reception as well as at events through the Cumberland Lodge conference, the AGEFI and Trade Tech Europe.
20. Maintained and expanded our political engagement with HM Opposition and other parliamentary stakeholders to advocate for a globally competitive Square Mile. Drafted correspondence on behalf of the Policy Chair to newly appointed members of the Shadow Frontbench. Attended Scottish National Party annual conference and supported the Policy Chair on a virtual panel event focused on the future of Financial Services in Scotland.
21. Continued to work closely with Think Tanks to support the wider competitiveness agenda, these include New Financial, The Whitehall & Industry Group, and the Centre for European Reform.

To support Competitiveness in advance of the next meeting of the Public Relations Sub-Committee, The Corporate Affairs Team will:

22. Work in coordination with Innovation and Growth, and the new Competitiveness Board, to continue to amplify the work of the City of London Corporation's Competitiveness Strategy through our programme of corporate communications.

Levelling Up and London

To work coherently with the Government to deliver upon the 'Levelling Up' agenda, and to continue to promote the fundamental strengths of London to the UK as a whole, The Corporate Affairs Team have:

23. Supported the Policy Chair in engagements with the 'Levelling Up Taskforce', to articulate the position of the City of London Corporation. Principally, that Financial and Professional Services must form part of the 'levelling up' agenda, that levelling up must focus on people and skills, and London must not be 'levelled down' as a result of this process. As part of the City Corporations response to the Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review, noting the lack of relative support distributed to areas within London.
24. Briefed the Policy Chair for meetings with the Business and Industry Minister, as part of the Socio-Economic Diversity Taskforce, which is designed to support a people and skills led approach to 'levelling up'.
25. Worked with various London based think-tanks and organisations, such as Centre for London, and in addition supported the annual London Conference. Continued to work in partnership with the GLA, London Councils and London & Partners to promote the fundamental strengths of the capital. Engaged with the Minister for London and the Member of Parliament for the Two Cities on our current priorities for the City of London, and London more broadly.
26. Supported the launch of a Fabian Society 'Commission on Poverty and Regional Inequality' which is aimed at highlighting 'intra-regional' levels of poverty and deprivation, in the context of 'levelling up'. In addition, attended events with the think-tank Onward, who are working across the broader 'levelling up' agenda.

To continue our engagements on the 'Levelling Up' agenda in advance of the next meeting of the Public Relations Sub-Committee, The Corporate Affairs team will:

27. Engage with relevant political stakeholders, think tanks and industry groups to advocate the City Corporations position on this issue, and provide a comprehensive response to the 'Levelling Up White Paper' which is scheduled to be released in 2022

Sport Engagement

To provide national and international sport engagement to promote the City of London Corporation, the Sport Engagement Manager has:

28. Hosted an event at Guildhall to launch joint research commissioned alongside UK Sport on the trade and soft power benefits of hosting major sport events in the UK. The event was well attended and involved speakers from the business and sports sector, as well as government. The Sports Minister gave a keynote speech on the importance of this work and this broader area aligns with our more general work on trade and competitiveness.
29. Hosted the London Sport Awards in Guildhall involving over 300 stakeholders from the grassroots sport community in London. The City Corporation was designated the headline sponsor of the awards ensuring good promotional coverage. The awards were successful, and the Sport Engagement Manager is in discussions with London Sport on future collaboration for next year's event.
30. Owing to Covid-19 constraints the reception to celebrate the UK's successful bid to host the International Working Group of Women and Sport has been postponed until spring. In addition, it is envisaged that the lunch to mark the 25th anniversary of the foundation of UK Sport will also be moved to a new date in March. Planning for other events continues to move forward, including a conference to bring together senior leaders from the sport and business worlds - Global Sports Agora – which is due to take place at the end of April.

In advance of the next meeting of the Public Relations Sub-Committee. The Sport Engagement Manager will:

31. Maximise the City Corporation's engagement across relevant sporting competitions, such as the Women's Euro Football Championships and the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Discuss the City Corporation's involvement in these events with partners.
32. Provide international relations support for high profile bids to host competitions such as the FIFA World Cup in 2030.
33. Continue to assess how the City Corporation delivers sport and physical activity across the Square Mile and our open spaces.

Climate Action

To deliver a sustainable and net zero City, which promotes 'Green Finance', The Corporate Affairs Team have:

34. Worked in coordination with the COP26 delivery team to amplify our key messages from COP26 to relevant political stakeholders and include within the speaking remarks of Policy Chair led interventions.
35. Established a Pan-London briefing document which sets out the key programme priorities of the City Corporation, GLA and London Councils regarding 'Green Finance'. In addition, worked with these institutions to support the delivery of events and conferences to promote climate action in London. This has included the GLA and C40 Pre-COP26 event, and the 2021 London Councils Climate Conference.
36. Support the Policy Chair and Deputy Policy Chair in their engagements with the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission, which is looking at providing UK Cities with sustainable investment opportunities to support the transition to net zero

There are a series of strategically important engagements to deliver climate action related work in advance of the next meeting of the Public Relations Sub-Committee. The Corporate Affairs Team will:

37. Work to ensure the City Corporation is well placed to amplify the successes of the Green Horizon Summit at COP26 and reflect upon the decisions reached at COP26 in the Corporations political engagement programme over the duration of the UK's COP presidency.
38. Continue to facilitate engagements for the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission, and work at a Pan-London level to support the delivery of the City of London Corporations Climate Action Plan.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

We engage with political stakeholders, organise events associated with the party-political conferences and work with the thinktanks and other third-party organisations to produce events and associated policy reports. This provides an opportunity for the City Corporation to engage with key audiences on important global, national and local government issues and to demonstrate the Corporation's involvement in relevant debates. Sponsorship and political engagement would also help deliver outcomes 2 – 10 of the 2018-23 Corporate Plan.

Financial implications

The Corporate Affairs Team has an established budget for all party conference and engagement related activity. Any sponsorship of ad-hoc policy projects is currently funded via the Policy Initiatives Fund according to decisions of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Resource implications

None

Legal implications

None

Risk implications

None

Equalities implications

None

Climate implications

None

Security implications

None

Conclusion

39. Members are asked to note the ongoing work of the Corporate Affairs Team

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Committee(s): Public Relations Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee	Dated: 24 January 2022
Subject: Update on Filming Activity in the City of London	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 9, 10 and 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Bob Roberts - Director of Communications	For Information
Report author: Joanna Burnaby-Atkins, Film Liaison Manager: Deputy Town Clerks Department	

Summary

This report is a regular update on filming activity and informs Members of an exceptionally high-level of filming which returned to the City since the first lockdown.

For the first time filming income brought into the City Corporation will exceed £1m by end of March.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Filming Industry immediately ceased filming when Covid lockdown was initiated in March 2020. However, guidelines allowing filming to take place during the pandemic has meant the UK's screen industries have bounced back faster than almost any other industry post-pandemic and there has been exceptionally high level of filming in London.

Current Position

2. Large-scale productions that have filmed in the City in the last nine months include:

- Apple TV production Embankment filmed on City streets over many weekends.
- Amazon spy drama Citadel filmed in Guildhall
- Warner Bros' Flash superhero film filmed at Smithfield Market and streets around St Pauls Cathedral.
- Peripheral, an Amazon TV production, filmed over several weekends on City Streets.
- Sky drama Gangs of London filmed at Billingsgate Market.
- The Netflix production Anatomy of a Scandal filmed at the Old Bailey.
- Channel 4 drama My Name is Lizzie filmed at the Old Bailey.

Other productions include Brussels and Tailspin for Apple TV; and Trigger Point for ITV. All filmed on City Streets.

3. In addition to filming on City Streets and on our sites the City has also supported a large amount of filming in privately owned buildings throughout the City, arranging parking through the Traffic Management Team to make filming in these sites possible.

4. The City Film Liaison Team are already reviewing several large-scale filming requests for this coming year. Filming scheduled in the first quarter of this calendar year and requiring road closures are the following:

- A TV drama filming on Southwark Bridge in February
- A TV drama filming on Cornhill in February
- A large scale driving stunt shoot on London Wall and Ludgate Hill in March/April

5. The result has meant filming income into the City Corporation via the Film Liaison Team for the first nine months of this financial year is £935,092 and anticipated to exceed £1m by end of March. This greatly exceeds the total annual income for all previous years which has averaged at £572k over the last five years.

6. One production – Embankment - brought income of just under £200k into City Corporation departments.

7. We intend to build on this increased demand for filming by establishing a Film Location Library to better market our sites to film makers as approved by Policy and Resources Committee on 8th July 2021:

<https://democracy.cityoflondon.gov.uk/documents/s155059/Establishment%20of%20London%20Location%20Library%20to%20Promote%20Filming.pdf>

8. Filming income is distributed amongst the City Corporation departments that host and manage the filming allowing all departments engaging with filming to benefit financially. The Film Liaison Team's costs are drawn back each year proportionally from those sites who raise filming income and administrative fees are charged.

Options

None

Corporate and Strategic Implications

None

Proposals

None

Resource Implications

None

Legal Implications

None

Equalities implications

None

Climate implications

None

Security implications

None

Conclusion

Appendices

- None

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Committee(s): Public Relations Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee – For information	Dated: 24/01/2022
Subject: Parliamentary Team Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	6,7,8,9,11
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Paul Double, City Remembrancer	For Information
Report author: William Stark, Parliamentary Engagement Officer	

Summary

This summary updates Members on the main elements of the Parliamentary Team's previous and planned activity in support of the City of London Corporation's political and parliamentary engagement since the last formal update in October 2021.

Recommendation(s)

Members are recommended to note the report.

Main Report

Legislative Programme Update

1. The Government is mid-way through its legislative agenda, with the majority of major Bills announced in the May 2021 Queen's Speech having made substantial progress or, in the case of the **Draft Online Safety Bill**, completed pre-legislative scrutiny (further detail on this is included in the Forward Look section). Some smaller Bills, such as the **Armed Forces Act** have received Royal Assent alongside the much larger **Environment Act**, which has completed its prolonged passage through Parliament. Notably absent from Bills before Parliament is legislation to reform planning rules, following backbench discontent at planning reforms proposed in the Government's White Paper, and a change of Secretary of State (and departmental name) at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
2. Details on the progress of Bills with particular relevance to City Corporation interests are set out below.
3. **Elections Bill** – The Bill proposes changes to election law, introducing voter ID in parliamentary and local elections in England, removing the 15 year limit on overseas voters in UK parliamentary elections, and changing the ability for EU

citizens to vote in local elections in England and Northern Ireland. The Bill is also being used to introduce a “first past the post” system for the election of all Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC), Combined Authority Mayors, and the Mayor of London. The Bill takes account of the move to digital campaign material by extending the requirement currently applied to printed material identifying the producer and candidate being supported to digitally produced material.

4. To reflect reciprocal voting rights across the EU and in a post-Brexit move, the Bill proposes to alter the rights of EU citizens’ right to vote in local elections in England, (including in the City’s ward elections). EU citizens who arrived in the UK before 31 December 2020 and who have lawful status, including settled status, will continue to be eligible to vote. EU citizens coming to live in the UK after 31 December 2020 will be able to vote in the UK if reciprocal voting rights exist with that person’s home country. Currently Spain, Portugal, Poland and Luxembourg have agreed reciprocal voting treaties.
5. It is expected that the Bill will complete its Commons stages by the end of January but will not receive Royal Assent by the time of the City’s ward elections in March. Debate on voter ID continues to dominate discussions. Earlier this month, guidance was published regarding the documents that will be accepted as voter ID. Disabled ‘blue’ badges, photo driving licences, certain travel passes, voter ID cards and a range of similar documents will be accepted. The Government is likely to face strong opposition when the Bill moves onto the Lords in the coming months on the Bill’s voter ID provisions. A report on the Bill was submitted to the November meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee. A further report will be provided after committee stage in the House of Lords.
6. **Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill** – The Bill’s lengthy provisions grant the police further powers to address crime and disorder and cover a wide range of matters, including: the protection and wellbeing of police and other emergency workers, the extraction of information from electronic devices, criminal damage to memorials, public order, unauthorised encampments, road traffic offences, the sentencing and release of offenders, and court procedure. The Bill has encountered some controversy over its public order provisions, which strengthen police powers to restrict protests and public assembly. These provisions have been the subject of fierce debate in both Houses. The Bill has just passed through a lengthy Report Stage in the Lords and is nearing completion. The Bill has been reported to the Police Authority Board.
7. **Judicial Review and Courts Bill** - The Bill contains provisions which prospectively remove the limitations placed on the use of the buildings currently housing the City of London Magistrates’ Court and Mayor’s Court, these being linked to the development of the new court centre in Fleet Street. The main emphasis of the Bill is however on the reform of judicial review. This will be of significance to public bodies generally (including to the Corporation when acting in that capacity). The Bill is awaiting Report Stage in the House of Commons. Through a separate piece of legislation introduced in the Lords (the **Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Bill**) the judicial retirement age will

increase to 75 (from 70). The Bill received its Second Reading in the Commons on the 5 January. Updates on both Bills will be provided in future reports to this Sub Committee.

8. **Professional Qualifications Bill [HL]** – The Bill creates regulation-making powers designed to implement a new framework for the recognition of overseas professional qualifications in the UK, replacing existing EU-derived law in this area. The Bill also includes provisions for the implementation of international agreements on the recognition of professional qualifications as well as creating powers to authorise regulators in the UK to enter into regulator recognition agreements with regulators overseas.
9. The City's interest in the Bill derives from its implications for the recognition of overseas legal qualifications. The Law Society, the Bar Council and Association of Costs Lawyers fall within the scope of the legislation as regulators, and play a role in determining whether overseas qualifications are recognised. As introduced, the Bill would have allowed the Secretary of State to make regulations that would allow individuals with overseas qualifications to practise a regulated profession in the UK, thereby introducing the potential to bypass the existing regulatory regime.
10. The Bill was amended substantially in the Lords to address these and other concerns about the independence of regulators, as well as clarify which regulators would fall under the Bill's provisions. Given this substantial revision in the Upper House, and widespread support for the wider aims of the Bill, it passed Second Reading in the Commons unopposed. A report on the Bill is available to members of the Sub Committee upon request.
11. **Environment Act** – The Environment Act received Royal Assent in November 2021 following a long and complicated passage through Parliament, including a number of delays and having to be carried over between parliamentary sessions. The Act amends existing environmental legislation and introduces new measures on a range of environmental policy areas. The Act requires the Government to set and achieve at least one target in four priority areas: air quality; biodiversity; water; resource efficiency and waste reduction, as well as setting a target for fine particulate matter or "PM2.5".
12. The City Corporation was active during the Act's passage through amendments tabled by Lord Tope (Liberal Democrat), as reported in the last update. These amendments sought discretionary powers for Local Authorities to control emissions from combustion plant, if they choose to declare their area an 'Air Quality Improvement Area'. The proposals prompted discussion in the Lords on this issue and received cross-party support but were not ultimately adopted by the Government. Members of the Sub Committee and Port Health and Environmental Services Committee were updated on engagement during the passage of the Bill. A report on the Act will be submitted to the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee.
13. Lord Tope has subsequently been able to re-table the Emissions Reduction (Local Authorities in London) Bill, the provisions of which mirror the

amendments tabled to the Environment Bill. This Private Member's Bill was first introduced in January 2020 but was unable to progress further owing to a lack of parliamentary time. It is now a possible candidate for a Second Reading debate which will be sought before the end of the current session

14. During the passage of the Bill, an amendment tabled by the Duke of Wellington regarding the amount of sewage released into rivers attracted a great deal of attention, resulting in Ping Pong between the Houses. The Duke sought a duty on "sewerage undertakers to take all reasonable steps to ensure untreated sewage is not discharged from storm overflows into inland and coastal waters". The dispute led to the Government proposing a compromise amendment placing a duty on water companies to "progressively reduce the impacts of sewage pollution from storm overflows."
15. **Armed Forces Act** – The Armed Forces Act received Royal Assent in December 2021. The Act renewed the Armed Forces Act 2006 – required to continue in force the legislation enabling the armed forces to be recruited and maintained as disciplined bodies, made provisions relating to recommendations of the Service Justice System Review, and imposed a duty on local authorities to have due regard to the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant when exercising certain housing, education or healthcare functions. The City of London Corporation is already a signatory to the Covenant and has policies in place with regard to housing and education to ensure members of the armed forces community are not disadvantaged when accessing services. A report on the Bill will be provided to the Sub Committee at its next meeting.
16. The Government's reform of technical education, the **Skills and Post-16 Education Bill**, awaits Report Stage in the Commons, having already passed through the Lords. The Bill contains a number of varied provisions, including those regarding tailoring further education provision to meet local needs, changing the role of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Training when it comes to approving and regulating qualifications, gives the Secretary of State for Education powers to introduce a Lifelong Loan Entitlement, as well as measures to improve further education teacher training and to criminalise services that help post-16 students in England cheat on assessments. In Committee, the Commons reversed a range of amendments made in the Lords, including amendments to requiring local authorities to have a role in the development of Local Skills Improvement Plans, delaying the withdrawal of BTECs and allowing students to keep their Universal Credit entitlement while studying. Whether the Lords will insist on these amendments remains to be seen. A report on the Bill will be submitted to the Education Board.
17. A Private Members' Bill introduced by the City's MP Nickie Aiken (Con), the **Pedicabs (London) Bill**, received Government backing when it was considered at Second Reading. The Bill provides for the regulation of the carrying of passengers in Greater London by pedal cycles and power-assisted pedal cycles for hire or reward. Pedicabs have benefited from a legal loophole as they are currently defined as a "stage carriage" in Greater London under the Metropolitan Public Carriage Act 1869 and thus does not fall under TfL's

licensing powers. Despite a Minister expressing full support for the Bill from the Government, it will not proceed immediately to its next stage due to an intervention by Sir Christopher Chope (Con), who regularly objects to Private Members' Bills. It is anticipated that another opportunity to progress the Bill will be found. Subject to its progress a report on the Bill will be provided to the Sub Committee and other relevant committees.

18. Another Government-backed Private Members' Bill, the **Local Government (Disqualification) Bill**, has made considerable progress to Report Stage. Introduced by Conservative Paul Beresford, the short Bill would remove a loophole where individuals who are on sex offenders register can stand for election or hold office in borough and country elections. Currently while those who are added to the register and are subject to a custodial sentence are automatically disqualified from their elected post, those who do not receive a custodial sentence are not automatically disqualified. The Bill passed Committee in the Commons with little debate and is likely to progress rapidly through its stages. A report on the Bill will be provided to the Sub Committee at its next meeting.

GLA and the Devolved Institutions

19. Following oral evidence given last year by Managing Director of the Bridge House Estates David Farnsworth to the London Assembly Transport Committee's inquiry into London's river crossings, the Office worked with Bridge House Estates on responding to the inquiry's final report. The Committee has also been offered a briefing on the work of the City Bridge Trust to enhance their understanding of the breadth of Bridge House Estates' work.
20. The Office contributed to the briefing for Shravan Joshi CC, Deputy Chairman of the Corporation's Streets and Walkways Sub Committee, ahead of his appearance before the London Assembly's Transport Committee to give evidence on the Mayor's Vision Zero initiative. The initiative seeks to reduce road fatalities and serious injuries to zero by 2040.
21. A representative from the Office attended the Scottish National Party conference, which was again held virtually this year. A note on the conference, produced in collaboration with Corporate Affairs, was sent to members of the Sub Committee shortly after its conclusion. Across the fringe, a recurring theme was the recent COP 26 conference and the transition to net zero in Scotland, while the path to independence featured more prominently on the main stage. In her speech, Nicola Sturgeon said that she would, in 2022, "initiate the process necessary to enable a referendum before the end of 2023," though did not provide the detail as to how this concession would be secured from Westminster.

State of the Parties

22. The Prime Minister's decision to stick with Plan B COVID-19 restrictions in England has, at the time of writing, seemingly removed the prospect of a further 'lockdown' or significantly tighter public health restrictions. Regulations implementing Plan B are due to expire on the 26 January, though a decision on whether to extend these will be known shortly beforehand. The Government has generally offered a vote on any extension of regulations, so it remains to be seen if Conservative backbenchers will tolerate any further extension, with 101 rebelling over the implementation of COVID-19 certification.
23. The decision shortly after Christmas not to impose UK-wide restrictions on gatherings and certain hospitality settings has resulted in one of the biggest discrepancies in COVID-19 restrictions between the four nations of the UK. While responsibility for public health restrictions have been devolved throughout the pandemic, these measures have generally matched each other. The difference in approach, and devolved administrations' limited abilities to generate their own income to support businesses, may raise questions about the UK's devolution settlement.
24. The Conservatives went into the Christmas break in a discontented mood. Defeat in the North Shropshire by-election and the resignation of Cabinet Office Minister Lord Frost were attributed to a wide range of factors, both in the Conservative Party and the wider public. These included allegations of breaches of COVID-19 rules by the Government and officials, the introduction of new COVID-19 restrictions, concerns about the cost of living, and the absence of action by the Government to reduce the tax burden. Media speculation about letters of no confidence being sent to the 1922 Committee came to nothing. It is worth noting that Theresa May, who faced more open and consistent rebellion from her backbenchers, survived such a challenge in December 2018, by 200 to 117. Nevertheless, the PM is under intense scrutiny from his backbenchers, who have made clear their willingness to rebel, as seen with 101-strong rebellion over aspects of the Plan B COVID-19 measures. Lord Frost's resignation letter spoke of his "concerns about the current direction of travel," indicating discontent in some circles about Government policy.
25. The period has seen a polling boost for Labour, who have held a lead on POLITICO's voting intention poll of polls since the start of December. The party's performance in the North Shropshire by-election, however, where the Liberal Democrats were the beneficiary of the Conservatives' misfortune, may have been disappointing for the party. Leader Keir Starmer explained the task ahead of him in a keynote speech in January, recognising he was "aware that just because the Tories lose the public's trust it doesn't mean Labour simply inherits it." The speech set out three principles around which he would base his leadership; "Security, Prosperity, Respect." This was preceded by a wide-ranging reshuffle in November. Starmer brought in former Ministers Yvette Cooper and David Lammy to be Shadow Home Secretary and Shadow Foreign Secretary respectively. Also of note was the promotion of Pat McFadden to Shadow Chief Secretary to Treasury. The former Treasury Minister was

replaced in the financial services brief by Hampstead and Kilburn MP Tulip Siddiq.

26. Liberal Democrats find themselves entering 2022 with two additions to their parliamentary party and some evidence that they can attract 'protest votes' in by-election campaigns, where they have done well historically. The Greens and other smaller parties may see 2022's local elections, including London borough elections, as an opportunity to make a mark.

Quarterly Forward Look

27. The Parliamentary Team is responding to the latest COVID-19 guidance in its efforts to resume face to face engagement activities. Access to the Parliamentary Estate remains limited. Officers have, however, held numerous face to face meetings with parliamentary offices. It is hoped that restrictions on guest access to the Parliamentary Estate and APPG events in Parliament will be relaxed soon.
28. Early 2022 will see two by elections take place, in Southend West following the murder of Sir David Amess in October 2021, and in Birmingham Erdington following the sudden death of Jack Dromey. There will also be London Borough Elections, along with elections in all local authorities in Scotland and Wales, and in some parts of England on 5 May 2022, following City Ward elections on 24 March.
29. Priorities for forthcoming engagement include the inclusion of fraud in the Online Safety Bill, engagement on international trade agreements, and the promotion of sustainable finance and ESG.
30. The final version of the Online Safety Bill is likely to be brought forward in the first half of the year, following the conclusion of pre-legislative scrutiny. The City Corporation, in collaboration with the City of London Police, successfully made the case for greater recognition of fraud in the Bill, with the joint committee examining the draft Bill recommending that fraud should be treated as a priority within the Bill and that paid-for online advertising should be included within the scope of the proposed legislation. By designating fraud as a "priority" in the Bill, online platforms would, said the Committee, need to be "proactive in stopping fraudulent material from appearing in the first instance, not simply removing it when reported." The Committee said that the draft Bill's current focus on user-generated fraud, excluding paid-for fraudulent advertising, would "obstruct the Government's stated aim of tackling online fraud and activity that creates a risk of harm more generally."
31. The Office, in close collaboration with the Corporate Affairs, Media, and Police Authority Board teams will continue to engage with various stakeholders to ensure the Government adopts the recommendations of the Joint Committee. During the pre-legislative scrutiny process, the Office supported T/Commander Clinton Blackburn of the City of London Police in giving oral evidence to the Joint Committee, which was quoted in the Committee's final report. A written submission was also made to the Committee, as well as the DCMS Sub

Committee on Online Harms and Misinformation. The Office will also continue to work closely with the City's MP Nickie Aiken throughout the Bill's passage. The Sub Committee will receive a full report on the final version of the Bill when it is published.

32. Further engagement on City Police matters took place through a parliamentary meeting with politicians and sectoral representatives was arranged to highlight the City Police's priorities in the fight against economic crime. An engaged audience of thirty guests heard from T/Commander Clinton Blackburn, Head of the City of London Police's Economic Crime Directorate and David Divitt, Vice-President, Financial Crime Solutions at Mastercard, with contributions from Police Authority Board chairman Deputy James Thomson.
33. Reflecting recent Government focus on signing international trade agreements following the UK's departure from the EU, the Office has engaged with various parliamentarians and parliamentary bodies to promote the consideration of financial and professional services in these (and other supplementary) international agreements. Working with IG's Global Trade Policy team, the Office facilitated a meeting between the Policy Chair and Stephen Timms MP, the Government's Trade Envoy to Switzerland and Lichtenstein, to discuss the sector's trading relationship with Switzerland and ongoing mutual recognition agreement negotiations. The Office has also made contact with Bim Afolami MP to discuss how to achieve better outcomes for services in trade agreements. In consultation with the Chair, the Office will engage where appropriate on Select Committee inquiries focusing on trade agreements, including new inquiries from the International Trade Committee on the UK's agreement with Australia and accession to CPTPP. This activity will build on previous submissions made to the Committee and the Lords International Agreements Sub-committee on digital trade and data, the UK's accession to CPTPP and trade relationships with Australia and Japan.
34. In consultation with the Chair, the Office will continue close engagement with London's APPGs. The Office met with the new APPG on London as a Global City shortly after its formation, with the Lord Mayor being invited as guest of honour for its inaugural reception in December 2021. The Office also produced a written submission to the Committee's inquiry into London's position as a Global City, with officers attending an oral evidence session. The Office is in discussion with the APPG for London on future engagement
35. In line with the mayoral theme of "People and Purpose," the Office will continue to promote the City Corporation's objectives and work on social mobility, sustainable finance and all parts of "ESG". The Office has secured a meeting for the Chair of Policy with the Chair of the Women and Equalities Committee to discuss the work of the Socio-Economic Diversity Taskforce and will seek to promote this to relevant APPGs and parliamentary stakeholders over the coming year. The Office has also made contact with the new APPG on ESG and has promoted IRSG work on the "S" in ESG to Gareth Davies MP (Con) ahead of a Westminster Hall debate on finance and modern slavery.

36. On sustainable finance, the Office will continue to promote the key messages of GHS@COP 26 and highlight the City Corporation's role in convening private finance at the summit and wider work in the sustainable finance space. The Policy Chair recently wrote to Louie French MP, winner of the Old Bexley and Sidcup by-election, setting out the City Corporation's work in this area. French has a background in sustainable investment, and it is hoped he will add to a growing number of Parliamentarians with an interest in this area. Reflecting the UK's year-long presidency of COP 26, parliamentary questions to the COP 26 President will continue, providing a further engagement opportunity.
37. Wider promotion of the UK's financial and professional services sector remains a priority. The Office briefed a large number of MPs ahead of a general debate on the contribution of the UK's Financial and Professional Services sector, reflecting a number of priority areas such as green finance, skills and access to talent and the UK's regulatory environment. Minister John Glen acknowledged the work of the City Corporation, Lord Mayor and Policy Chair in promoting the UK's FPS sector. On the UK's regulatory environment, the Policy Chair will meet with Sir Bob Neill MP (Con) to discuss regulation of financial services and how to accelerate change.
38. The Parliamentary Team resumed its role of supporting political and diplomatic engagement at City events over the second half of 2021. The return to face to face City events presented an opportunity to renew relationships with a number of parliamentary stakeholders and it is hoped that COVID-19 restrictions will allow events to continue to go ahead throughout 2022.
39. The Office will continue to engage with the 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies. Last year, the Office submitted a response to the Boundary Commission's initial proposals — which would see the Cities of London and Westminster constituency separated, with the City of London forming a new constituency with Islington named "The City of London and Islington South" — emphasising the historical, commercial, community and cultural links between the City and Westminster. The secondary consultation on parliamentary boundaries is due to take place from Tuesday 22 February to Monday 4 April and will provide an opportunity to make further representations and comment on responses submitted to the first consultation. As part of the second consultation, a public meeting is due to be held in Westminster on 24th and 25th February.
40. With the agreement of the City's MP, a written question was tabled on Section 618 of the Housing Act 1985, which disqualifies City Corporation members who live in Common Council owned properties from voting on housing matters. A response from Minister Chris Pincher noted that the City Corporation had brought the matter to the Government's attention and that the Government is currently considering the Committee on Standards in Public Life's review of Local Government Ethical Standards and its recommendations that relate to disclosable pecuniary interests. The Office will monitor for the Government's response to the review, and will continue to seek an appropriate legislative vehicle for the repeal of the provision.

41. The Office will continue to engage with parliamentarians and diplomatic sources to advocate for the UK's accession to the Lugano Convention. While UK accession is not in the gift of parliamentarians and is not currently finding favour in EU Commission circles, work will continue to raise awareness of this and adjacent matters. The matter was recently raised by Chair of the Justice Committee Sir Bob Neill in a debate on the UK's Financial and Professional Services and by former Lord Chief Justice Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd in a debate on the UK's relationship with the EU.

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