



Communications & Corporate Affairs Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee

Date: MONDAY, 1 JULY 2024
Time: 9.00 am
Venue: COMMITTEE ROOM 3 - 2ND FLOOR WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members:

Jason Groves (Chair)	Deputy Madush Gupta
Deputy Christopher Hayward, (Deputy Chairman)	Alderman Timothy Hailes JP
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Caroline Haines
Tijs Broeke	Deputy Shravan Joshi MBE
Deputy Peter Dunphy	Alderman Alastair King DL
Helen Fentimen OBE JP	Deputy Sir Michael Snyder
	Deputy James Thomson

and up to four co-opted Members from the Court of Common Council to be appointed by the Sub-Committee

Enquiries: Zoe Lewis
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<https://www.youtube.com/@CityofLondonCorporation/streams>

A recording of the public meeting will be available via the above link following the end of the public meeting for up to one civic 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.

Whilst we endeavour to livestream all of our public meetings, this is not always possible due to technical difficulties. In these instances, if possible, a recording will be uploaded following the end of the meeting.

Ian Thomas CBE
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 summary of the meeting held on 24 April 2024.

For Decision
(Pages 5 - 10)

4. **APPOINTMENTS**

To appoint up to four Co-Opted Members from the Court of Common Council, for the year ensuing.

For Decision

5. **OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

Report of the Town Clerk.

For Discussion
(Pages 11 - 12)

6. **CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS UPDATE REPORT**

Executive Director, Corporate Communications and External Affairs.

For Discussion
(Pages 13 - 36)

7. **MAYORAL PRIORITIES 2024-25 ALDERMAN ALASTAIR KING (SUBJECT TO ELECTION)**

Report of the Executive Director & Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor, Director of Innovation & Growth, Deputy Town Clerk and Chief Strategy Officer.

For Discussion
(Pages 37 - 42)

8. **PARTY CONFERENCES 2024**

Report of the Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs.

For Decision
(Pages 43 - 50)

9. **PARLIAMENTARY TEAM UPDATE**

Report of the City Remembrancer.

For Discussion
(Pages 51 - 56)

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

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

12. **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

13. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

To agree the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2024.

For Decision
(Pages 57 - 58)

14. **GENERAL ELECTION UPDATE**

Report of the Executive Director, Corporate Communications and External Affairs and The Remembrancer.

For Discussion
(Pages 59 - 64)

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

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

Part 3 - Confidential Agenda

17. **UPDATE ON THE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY AND DIRECTION OF TRAVEL**
Executive Director of Corporate Communications & Corporate Affairs to be heard.

For Discussion

COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS SUB (POLICY & RESOURCES) COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 24 April 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Communications & Corporate Affairs Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Keith Bottomley (Chairman)	Catherine McGuinness
Deputy Rehana Ameer	Alderman Sir William Russell
Tijs Broeke	Jason Groves
Alderman Prem Goyal, OBE	Deputy Madush Gupta
Deputy Shravan Joshi	Helen Fentimen
Deputy Edward Lord	

Officers:

Rhiannon Leary	-	Town Clerk's Department
Emily Tofield	-	Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs
Kay Abidilahi	-	Communications and External Affairs
Anna Clarke	-	Communications and External Affairs
Preet Desai	-	Communications and External Affairs
Mark Gettleson	-	Communications and External Affairs
Sam Hutchings	-	Communications and External Affairs
John Park	-	Communications and External Affairs
Kristy Sandino	-	Communications and External Affairs
Sam Collins	-	Chamberlain's Department
Daniel O'Byrne	-	Innovation and Growth
Paul Wright	-	Remembrancer
Katie Foster	-	Remembrancer's Office
Bruce Hunt	-	Remembrancer's Office
William Stark	-	Remembrancer's Department

Members observing online:

The Hon. Emily Benn
Caroline Haines

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Chris Hayward, Alderman Alastair King DL and Tom Sleight. The Hon. Emily Benn and Caroline Haines also issued apologies, but were observing the meeting online.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

that the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 28 February 2024 be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment:

- that Deputy Edward Lord be recorded as having given their apologies for absence for the previous meeting.

MATTERS ARISING:

there were none.

4. **CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS UPDATE REPORT**

Members received a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Communications and External Affairs regarding an update on the Department's work. The Chair welcomed the report, noting the importance of stakeholder and branding reviews which would translate into how the organisation moved communications and external engagement forward.

In the discussion which ensued, the following points were made:

- What progress had been made on further development of economic security?
- In relation to the Communications comprehensive review, members urged that this be progressed at speed and that officers should consider putting forward ambitious suggestions for improvement.
- The recent invitation for members in residential wards to contribute to Ward newsletters was warmly welcomed. A query was put forward in relation to the positive work being undertaken by the Barbican Transformation Board and how this might be communicated more broadly.
- Those present heard that very positive recent feedback from Emily Thornberry had been received by a member in relation to the communications and engagement work being undertaken by the Corporation.
- In relation to the section of the report which encapsulated the recent visit to Northern Ireland, officers were urged to reframe this narrative given that the Honourable the Irish Society had worked actively with Irish political representatives on behalf of the CoL Corporation for several hundred years. A request was made that officers work closely with the Honourable the Irish Society on this aspect of the Corporation's communication work.
- Members sought further information in relation to which social media channels were being used to engage with different sections of the electorate, including both residents and businesses.
- In relation to the Net Zero delivery conference, the use of in-house capability was welcomed.
- How would the new CRM system be used to engage the electorate?
- A member referred to the significant uptake of the postal voting option in their ward, which was to be welcomed; however, they flagged that

current postal delivery systems, post-Covid and in a hybrid working environment, did not meet the needs of voters and asked that consideration be given to how this may be improved in a future report on hybrid working.

Officers then responded as follows:

- Officers from the Innovation and Growth Department were scheduled to present an update on economic security to the Policy & Resources Committee. The CoL Police Authority Board and the Communications team were also involved in taking this work forward. An officer had recently attended a speech on economic security given by the Deputy Prime Minister and it was agreed that a summary of this should be circulated to all members of the sub-committee.
- The sub-committee heard that the work on the comprehensive review was well underway; however careful planning was required for each stage.
- Officers agreed that messages around the positive work being done on the Barbican Estate should be more broadly communicated.
- Officers noted the comments made and agreed to follow up on the communications work in relation to the Honourable the Irish Society.
- In response to the query regarding social media channels, officers advised members that Facebook, Linked In, Instagram and Tik Tok would all to some degree be involved in the development of a digital communications strategy.
- The Chair noted that the CRM system was on the agenda under Item 6 and that any discussion on that item would be taken at that stage.
- An appointment had been made to the post of Election Engagement Campaign Manager and it was anticipated that they would be in post in the near future. Given the very clear legal guidelines in relation to postal voting, any action would require careful consultation with the Electoral Services team; however, members heard that, potentially, it may be possible to advise the electorate that they had the option to receive their postal ballots at their home addresses (rather than a business address) should they so choose.

In addition to the above discussion, members warmly welcomed the work being done on sports engagement. A further comment was made that work in relation to areas of tourism, including sports, needed to be aligned across the Corporation.

In terms of the plan for longer-term funding, a request was made for this to be discussed at the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee (RASC) Awayday, to which all members agreed.

Members asked that careful consideration be given to the membership of any Corporation delegation attending the political parties' conferences, in light of the possibility of an early General Election being called.

RESOLVED, that:

- i) members note the report;

- ii) a summary of the recent speech by the Deputy Prime Minister on economic security be circulated to all members of the Sub-Committee.
- iii) officers develop closer communication with the Honourable the Irish Society given that body's long-established engagement with Irish political representatives;
- iv) that the Sub-Committee's request for longer-term funding to be considered at the RASC Awayday be communicated to the Policy and Resources Committee.

5. **RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT UPDATE**

Members received an update from the Head of Campaigns and Community Engagement regarding recent progress made and planned next steps in resident engagement activity.

Members welcomed the effort and energy put into the residential engagement work. Officers were urged to work closely with neighbouring boroughs given the similarities involved in the problems with aging housing stock, with comment being made that inter-departmental working was crucial if this work was to be as effective as possible. Officers agreed and, in response, advised that the way the Corporation communicated its work, including via service provision across departments, would be explored as part of the Communications comprehensive review.

A member also expressed the view that community topic-based events/discussion sessions had been very well attended, in some contrast to Community Question Time events, and urged all present to bear in mind that residents, not businesses alone, should be made to feel included in these events. Another member endorsed these comments but also emphasised that the right balance needed to be found in order to be inclusive of both residents and business; furthermore, it was noted that residents' perception of inclusivity differed depending on the ward involved.

RESOLVED:

that the report, and members' comments, be noted.

6. **DATA LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT UPDATE**

Members were presented with a report of the Chamberlain which provided an overview of the Data Lighthouse project, the findings of which supported the need for a corporate Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system as a key priority for the Corporation. In presenting the report, officers emphasised that holding data in Departmental or team silos hampered the Corporation's ability to engage with stakeholders at all levels.

Members enthusiastically welcomed the report. A question was posed as to how quickly this work could be undertaken and in response, officers advised that the aim was to proceed at pace, although the funding source and ongoing support had yet to be confirmed.

RESOLVED:

that the report be noted.

14. PARLIAMENTARY TEAM UPDATE

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Remembrancer which updated members on recent elements of the City of London Corporation's political and parliamentary engagement. Members heard that three new pieces of legislation had been introduced to parliament since the previous update; the Tobacco and Vapes Bill would be particularly pertinent to the City of London Corporation given its role as the local Weights and Measures enforcement body.

At paragraph 24, in relation to the House of Lords' Financial Services Regulation Committee's invitation to the Corporation's representative, members heard that the Committee had instead decided to proceed to open an enquiry and would therefore no longer be inviting private submissions of evidence. Separately, the letter from the Policy Chairman to the Chair of the Treasury Sub-Committee on Financial Services Regulations (TSCFSR) had been published on the TSCFSR's website.

RESOLVED that:
the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

In relation to Catherine McGuinness' decision to stand down from this Sub-Committee, the Chair, on behalf of the Sub-Committee, expressed very warm thanks for all Ms McGuinness for all her dedication and hard work.

The Chair then advised that he planned to stand down as Chair of the Sub-Committee following this meeting – whilst continuing to serve as one of its members – and thanked all members of the Sub-Committee for their commitment and support during his Chairmanship.

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that:

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

11. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED, that:

the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2024 be approved as a correct record.

12. OVERVIEW OF CITY HOSTED EVENTS

The Sub-Committee considered a non-public report of the Remembrancer at Item 12.

RESOLVED:

that the report be noted.

13. INNOVATION AND GROWTH UPDATE

The Sub-Committee considered a non-public report of the Director of Innovation and Growth at Item 13.

RESOLVED:

that the report be noted.

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

There were none.

15. 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 3.07 pm

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Rhiannon Leary
rhiannon.leary@cityoflondon.gov.uk**

Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee – Public Outstanding References

2/2023/P	14 February 2023	<p>Switching-off light campaign Explore options to share campaign with other councils.</p>	<p>Executive Director Environment City Surveyor</p>	<p>No campaign is being progressed whilst the implications for the City are being mapped out by City Surveyor's and Exec. Director of Environment.</p>
1/2024	24 April 2024	<p>Economic Security Members requested that a summary of the recent speech by the Deputy Prime Minister on economic security be circulated to all Members of the Sub-Committee.</p>	<p>Executive Director of Corporate Communications and External Affairs</p>	
2/2024	24 April 2024	<p>Longer Term Funding Request The Sub-Committee's request for longer-term funding be considered at the RASC Awayday be communicated to the Policy and Resources Committee.</p>	<p>Town Clerk</p>	

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Committee(s): Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee	Dated: 1 July 2024
Subject: Corporate Communications & External Affairs Update Report	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	All
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: Emily Tofield, Executive Director of Corporate Communications and External Affairs	For Discussion
Report authors: Kristy Sandino, Assistant Director, Corporate Affairs, Mark Gettleson, Head of Campaigns and Community Engagement, John Park, Assistant Director of Media (Public Services), Kay Abdilahi, Assistant Director of Media (Financial Services), Sheldon Hind, Head of Publishing	

Report Summary

This overarching update report covers the full remit of the central Corporate Communications and External Affairs Division and includes the following:

- a. Transformation Programme update [Annex A]
- b. Corporate Affairs [Annex B]
- c. Campaigns and Community Engagement [Annex C]
- d. Sports Engagement [Annex D]
- e. Media [Annex E]
- f. Internal Communications [Annex F]

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of this report.

Annex A - Communications Transformation Programme Update

1. As set out in the Communications and Corporate Affairs Business plan 2024-2025, the division is on track to deliver the Communications & Corporate Affairs Strategy 2024-2029 by Autumn, subject to progressing internal consultation and agreement.
2. The strategic branding and strategic stakeholder reviews are nearing conclusion. We are grateful to members for their support for these reviews and engagement on the strategy development.
3. The business case to expand the Filming Team has been agreed by Chamberlain's as part of the wider cross-organisational income generation work. This will be the first change to the team in more than 20 years, allowing us to increase income for the City Corporation and build resilience in the team. This is our contribution to the wider work around income generation across the organisation. One of the new Officers will have a particular focus on supporting our open spaces to maximise and manage filming opportunities in their locations. The second Officer will progress additional requests. They will also enable the team, for the first time, to be able to proactively promote their work, including releases that have been filmed with us, and the opportunities that exist to film at City Corporation locations, attracting productions to film with us and promote 'screen tourism' (#setjetting, a significant driver of tourism to the UK).
4. In line with the emerging recommendations of the strategic Branding Review, the proposal is the Film Team is relaunched as Film City. This will create an identity for the City of London Film Unit that is complementary to the City of London brand, that encapsulates locations outside of the Square Mile, and that can be used on microsite, digital and social media and marketing materials.
5. This also aligns with the key emerging principles that we should resist creating new brands for internal units as this increases avoidable costs, is confusing for stakeholders and fails to add to the overarching City Corporation brand.

Annex B - Corporate Affairs Summary

Strategic Communications and Messaging Development

6. As part of our ongoing strategy to enhance strategic planning, the Strategic Planning and Insights Manager, who joined the team in early April, has been leading on a piece of work to bolster our horizon-scanning capabilities across the entire organisation. This will help anticipate risks, identify opportunities, and align communication activities with our corporate pillars.
7. A Strategic Communication Grid, currently being developed, will ensure that our cross-cutting communication activities align with the Corporate Plan's strategic pillars. It will offer leadership and oversight on communication projects, provide strategic advice, and modernise our communication outcomes by utilising a broad range of channels and improving accessibility. Additionally, it will set annual communication priorities, implement effective planning processes, and ensure our activities are engaging, impactful, and measurable.
8. In light of the General Election, being called on 22 May 2024, and in line with legal requirements and statutory guidance that must be considered when issuing publicity and communications during this time, the Corporate Communications & External Affairs Team acted in reviewing all planned communication and engagement activity during the pre-election period. The Strategic Communications and Insights Manager managed more than 30 individual requests and, working with the Assistant Director of Corporate Affairs, engaged with a range of senior colleagues across multiple departments, advising on appropriate protocols and governance regarding media announcements and communications plans, and events and ceremonial engagements, delivered by both internal and external stakeholders.
9. The Corporate Affairs Team has also led the integration of cohesive narratives through strategic communications and message development in the following areas:
 - a. **Dynamic Economic Growth.** Across a range of speakers and mediums, advancing our 'Dynamic Economic Growth' narrative has been a core focus. Key highlights include:
 - i. Supporting the Policy Chairman in his speech for City Week at Guildhall. Convening more than 1,000 delegates to discuss challenges facing financial services, focusing on capital markets, climate change, digital assets and AI, the Policy Chair emphasised the importance of AI and the transformative possibilities it can provide for the sector. This was supported with an op-ed in City A.M that highlighted the opportunities for UK-based financial services to grow in areas including capital markets, sustainable finance, and fintech.
 - ii. Supporting the Policy Chairman as he was invited to join the House of Lords and give evidence at the Financial Services

Regulation Committee, discussing the role of the regulators in enhancing the UK's growth and competitiveness.

- iii. Supporting the Policy Chairman in his opening remarks at the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute's Global Wealth Conference, where he reiterated our commitment to helping raise investment levels across the UK through our *Vision for Economic Growth*.
 - iv. Supporting the Policy Chairman in his engagements as part of the third annual Net Zero Delivery Summit. During his keynote at the Net Zero Delivery Summit and City A.M column, the Policy Chairman focused on the significant challenges and opportunities in financing the net zero transition.
 - v. Supporting Alderman Alison Gowman in remarks at a St James's Place Green Finance & Sustainability event, reiterating that London is the world's leading green finance centre, but this is not by chance. We reiterated core strategic messaging that finance is central to fighting the climate crisis and is a key competitive growth area for London.
 - vi. Supporting the Policy Chairman with his speeches on recent international visits. Aligned with the Net Zero Delivery Summit - a major moment in the City Corporation's calendar - there has been a strong focus on economic growth messaging and sustainable finance. This includes highlighting the leading role that the City and wider London play as the leading green financial centre, and also the vital role that finance has in progressing the net zero transition.
- b. **Vibrant Thriving Destination.** Key highlight includes:
- i. Reflecting the recent decision by Policy & Resources Committee to adopt the recommendations of the Martin Review into Destination City, Corporate Affairs and the Media team are working with partners across the organisation to develop the next iteration of our core messaging on Destination City. This will reflect its broader role as the growth strategy for the Square Mile, and its role in attracting businesses and people to our vibrant, thriving Square Mile.
- c. **Diverse Engaged Communities.** Key highlight includes:
- i. Supporting the Policy Chairman with his remarks at the SME strategy launch: reflecting the importance of the SME community within the Square Mile ecosystem, outlining the strategy, and tying this narrative to other significant pieces of work including Destination City to demonstrate the proactive role that the City Corporation is taking to community engagement.

Political Engagement

10. Political engagement has unsurprisingly slowed in recent months as politicians' attention broadly turned to campaigning and subsequently halted with the calling of the General Election.

11. Since the last sub-committee meeting in April 2024, the Corporate Affairs Team has prioritised:

- a. Working with TheCityUK (TCUK) on a letter-writing campaign to officials, advisers, and civil servants on the co-authored Tax Take Contribution report.
- b. Drafting and agreeing with other key trade associations, a joint statement of principles calling on the next government to adopt certain principles in its approach to our industry. All principles are all focused on protecting and enhancing the UK's status as an International Financial Centre - and the benefits this brings to working people, savers, pensioners and businesses in every region and nation of the country.
- c. Working with Innovation and Growth colleagues to secure a suitable date and programme for the visit to the City of London Corporation by the First and deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland.
- d. Facilitated a meeting between the IRSG and a senior Labour researcher.
- e. Organised a meeting between the Chair of the Transition Finance Market Review and the Shadow Minister for Climate Change.
- f. Drafting and facilitating deployment of letters to HMG and Shadow ministers in DBT, FCDO and the Cabinet Office on the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement ahead of its upcoming review at the end of April.
- g. Providing briefing and support for:
 - i. Chair of Policy and Resources' bilateral meeting with the Parliamentary Secretary at HM Treasury.
 - ii. Vice-Chair of Policy Resources attendance at Onward's Business Network roundtable with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.
 - iii. Deputy Chair of Policy and Resources attendance at a TCUK roundtable with the Prime Minister's Parliamentary Private Secretary.
 - iv. Lord Mayor bilateral meeting with the Minister of State for Science, Research and Innovation of the United Kingdom.
 - v. Vice Chair of Policy and Resources attending a private dinner with Theresa May at Chatham House.
 - vi. The Policy Lead for SMEs attendance at an SME4Labour lunch with the Shadow Home Secretary, and other Labour politicians.
- h. Engaging with the Labour party and left-wing think tanks at Officer level, including attendance at roundtable with the Senior Business Advisor of the Labour Party.
- i. Scoping out of influential strategic partnerships, including confirmation of becoming a member of the Labour Together Business Network.
- j. The following meetings were arranged after proactive outreach by the Corporate Affairs Team; however were cancelled when the general election was called:
 - i. The Policy Chairman quarterly meeting with the Shadow City Minister.
 - ii. Policy Chairman quarterly breakfast with City Minister.
 - iii. The Lord Mayor meeting with the Shadow Minister for Science, Research and Innovation.

Pan-London Engagement

12. The Corporate Affairs Team continues to engage with pan-London stakeholders and provides support, advice and inputs to the Policy Chairman and Members. This has included:
- a. Provided feedback to London Councils on their post-election government and parliament engagement framework, liaising across a number of internal departments.
 - b. Liaised with Housing colleagues to attend and input into the former City MP, Nickie Aiken's housing roundtable.
 - c. Continued to provide briefing support to the Policy Chairman and Deputy Policy Chairman for engagements with London Councils.
 - d. Supported the Deputy and Vice Policy Chairman on engagement with Central London Forward, including a roundtable with Jim McMahon OBE MP.
 - e. Briefed the Policy Chairman for a proposed introductory engagement with Tim Barnes, the Conservative PPC for the Cities of London and Westminster.
 - f. Monitored and reported on the Mayoral election, sharing information where appropriate.
 - i. Evaluated and shared insights into the main mayoral manifestos.
 - ii. Drafted letters to London Mayoral candidates and the City Assembly candidate, setting out the key messaging of the City Corporation.
 - iii. Drafted congratulatory letter for the Policy Chairman to Sadiq Khan on his election as Mayor of London.
 - iv. Drafted and personalised circa 85 letters to pan London stakeholders setting out the City Corporation's Corporate Plan.
 - g. Worked with officer colleagues to draft constituent casework responses for the Policy Chairman, following requests for the City MP.
 - h. Provided briefing and speaking remarks for the Deputy Chief Executive for New Local's Strong Things conference at the Great Hall.

Forward Look and Future Engagement

13. The Corporate Affairs Team continues to plan for future engagement with political stakeholders. Priorities for the Corporate Affairs Team until the end of the calendar year include:
- a. Activating the General Election plan and engagement, outlined in a separate paper to this Committee. This includes engagement with an incoming government, alongside colleagues across Remembrancers and Mansion House, on partnership on the City Corporation's high-profile events such as the Financial and Professional Services Dinner, HM Judges dinner and City Dinner.
 - b. Continuing discussions on the possibility of a number of annual partnerships including:
 - i. Fabian's Annual Conference due to take place in January.

- ii. A new Competitiveness Conference, working alongside European Policy Forum.
- iii. Onward's Chairman Dinner with a speech from a Senior Conservative politician.

Party Conferences

- 14. A separate report on party conferences has been submitted for the Subcommittee to consider.

Kristy Sandino

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Annex C – Campaigns and Community Engagement Summary

Resident Engagement

15. A successful City Question Time was held at the Church of St Katharine Cree on 4 June 2024, the first time the event has been held outside City Corporation property. The ability to self-cater lowered the overall cost of the event significantly and similar venues will be explored in the future. The next event will be held on 22 October 2024. We are exploring the purchase of a portable PA system to give greater flexibility to the venues where events can be held, without needing to bring in a private contractor, saving money on future events.
16. We are working on the development of a City-wide resident “offer”, including discounts and offers at venues and services across the Square Mile. The first promotion, £1 tickets for Tower Bridge over the summer, has now gone live and has been promoted on our corporate channels. We have met with the Barbican Centre to discuss long-term resident discounts, and have agreed discounts for residents at their new musical, Kiss Me Kate. We have begun to explore introducing a Residents Card, as practiced in other authorities - though the lack of any digital underpinning of such a card, integrated into a CRM, may present challenges.
17. The new resident newsletter has now been launched, going through every residential letterbox in the Square Mile, irrespective of voter registration status, over the week of 24 June 2024. These have been designed to summarise a range of activities and news which residents may find of interest - and have been localised into four groups of wards to provide updates from members. We will issue this three times a year, in addition to the insert in the wardmote letter (or a post-election letter in an election year).
18. An initial meeting has been held with Jacqueline Webster, the new Lead Member for Resident Engagement. Applications have now closed for maternity leave cover for the Resident Campaigns and Communications Manager role, and it is hoped to have this role in place by early August 2024.

Worker Engagement: City Belonging Project

19. The City Belonging Project continues to be an extremely effective and universal community engagement initiative, with significant interest from businesses and networks. Recent successful meetings include with JP Morgan, Markel, Savills and 22 Bishopsgate, which included collaboration on events and venue space for members of our community.
20. Much recent activity has focused on Pride, including publishing an events listings highlighting dozens of activities across the Square Mile. We have funded LGBTQ+ history walking tours, through City of London Guides, almost every single working day of June. We have brought in a partner for the City Corporation Pride Reception, Link: The LGBTQ+ Insurance Network, enabling our organisation to make the event larger and more engaging.

21. As in previous months, the City Belonging Project email list, now standing at more than 2,000 individuals, has been used to increase attendance from the City's worker community at existing events, including the Mental Health breakfast, Buddhist Society reception, Armed Forces Day and Pride.
22. We are working closely with Alderman Alastair King to develop the "communities" pillar of his mayoral theme, including creating cross-Square Mile networks for particular communities that join together the staff networks of City businesses. We have engaged a Project Officer, Jake Murray, initially on a temporary basis, who will be focusing in particular on Alderman King's theme, building out a project plan, improving our contacts with staff networks at City workplaces and identifying venues and partners for future events.
23. We will also begin work identifying internal communications managers at larger City workplaces, working with relevant partners to bring them together as a community.

Election Engagement

24. With less than six months to go until the registration deadline ahead of our next all-out elections, a new Election Engagement Campaign Manager – Siobhan Harley – is now in place. She is working on a project plan focused on the registration period, as outlined in previous committee reports. Immediate priorities include the identification of contacts at recently arrived and other unregistered businesses, additional development for the Speak for the City website and the development of new material to promote registration and candidature. She will be reaching out to members with a plan to empower them to support registration activities in their wards and feed in local intelligence.

Mark Gettleson

Head of Campaigns and Community Engagement, Town Clerk's Department

T: 020 3834 7188

E: Mark.Gettleson@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Annex D – Sports Engagement Update

Sport Strategy

25. The City Corporation's sport strategy for the Square Mile – *A Global City of Sport* – was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee in June 2023. It sets out the vision and priorities for the organisation in relation to sport over the next seven years and beyond, which include:

- a. Investing in facilities
- b. Activating public spaces
- c. Celebrating impact
- d. Attracting events and federations
- e. Supporting community sport

26. In addition to a new Sport Strategy Officer appointed earlier this year, a Community Sport Officer started this month and will begin to take forward the 'supporting community sport' priority within the new sport strategy. This will involve organising a number of community focused sport events, classes and activations tailored to local residents and workers' needs. Initially this will form part of the summer of sport campaign working alongside local Business Improvement Districts.

Sport Engagement

27. Since the last update provided to Members in April, the following sport engagement has taken place:

- **Night of 10k pbs** – this annual event took place at Parliament Hill Athletics Track on Hampstead Heath. In partnership with the race sponsors, On Running Shoes, the City Corporation hosted a number of local stakeholders in a VIP area within the inner field of the track. The event was a huge success, receiving good media coverage, and also provided the opportunity to celebrate the recent significant investment in the track by the City Corporation.
- **Sir Bill Beaumont Freedom** – Sir Bill Beaumont received the City of London Freedom in recognition of his contribution to sport and charity work. Following the ceremony, guests from rugby federations were hosted by City Corporation Members to celebrate the achievements of the current President of World Rugby.
- **Champions League Final** – with the final being hosted at Wembley Stadium in London, the City Corporation worked with partners including UEFA, the GLA and the FA to support the pre final celebrations at Old Billingsgate. The City Corporation was part of the initial bid for the final to be hosted in London and was able to celebrate this popular club competition in the Square Mile on the eve of the game.
- **Sport Diplomacy** – the UK Government's Sport Diplomacy Working Group took place at Guildhall for the second time in the last year, with representatives from across government departments and the sports industry meeting to

discuss sport diplomacy efforts and shared objectives. The City Corporation is also represented on this group by the Head of Sport Strategy & Engagement.

Forward Look

- **Summer of Sport** – a campaign being led by a number of City Business Improvement Districts and supported by the City Corporation will be launched on the morning of 20th June in Guildhall Yard. There will a number of activations taking place as part of the launch and all Members of the Court of Common Council have been invited to this. Further details on the events and activations taking place across the Square Mile this summer will be shared with Members in due course.
- **Euro 2024** – the City Corporation is working with partners including the FA and the GLA to consider ways of celebrating the UEFA Men’s Euro competition taking place in Germany. The UK and Ireland will be hosting the competition in 2028 and the City Corporation is expected to participate in hosting stakeholders during this time.
- **Paris 2024** – with the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games taking place this summer, the Head of Sport Strategy & Engagement is working with partners on a programme of business engagement for the Policy Chair during this period. As referenced in the previous report to this Sub Committee, the Policy and Resources Committee endorsed the City Corporation’s engagement in the Paris Games and allocated funding to deliver this work. A full update on outcomes of the engagement will be presented to Members of this Sub Committee at its next meeting.

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Annex E – Media Team Summary

28. In this short reporting period, 06 April – 31 May, the City Corporation's Media Team has delivered a significant number of proactive media strategies to support the delivery of key organisational priorities.

Priority moments have included:

29. Significant in-market coverage was achieved on the Policy Chairman's regional and international visits. In Greater Manchester, the Media Team secured interviews with Manchester Evening News and Business Live, which highlighted how the City is supporting regional fintech hubs. In Dublin, the Irish Times interviewed the Policy Chairman on the importance of UK-Dublin financial services ties across tech and sustainability. He spoke to Finews about the recent Berne Financial Services Agreement in Switzerland.

30. Following a proactive sell-in, the Policy Chairman was quoted in City A.M. and the Daily Mail on a new study showing the value of the financial services sector to the UK economy. The study highlighted that financial services firms contributed over £110bn in taxes last year, 12.3 per cent of total tax receipts.

31. The Media Team delivered an op-ed by the Policy Chairman to the Evening Standard outlining the key priorities of the City Plan 2040, which will be pivotal in moving London forward.

32. Widespread coverage was secured for the Easter Banquet, to which several photographers and broadcasters attended. The Banquet was featured in over 20 outlets, including the BBC, Independent, Financial Times, Sky News, and Daily Mail.

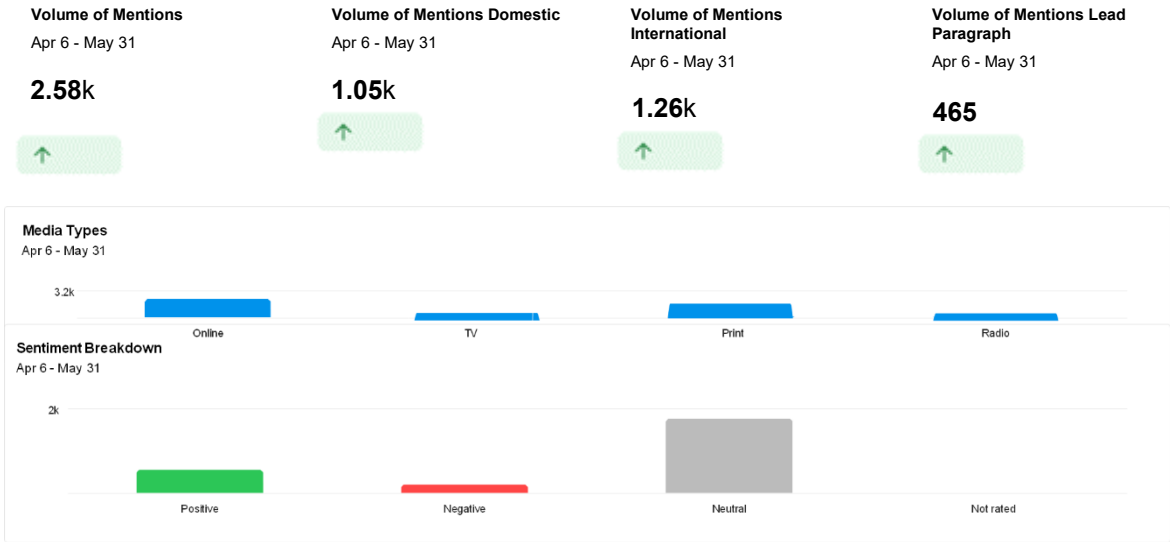
33. Working to a proactive communications plan, BBC Sport featured live coverage of the 'Night of the 10K PBs' event at Parliament Hill athletics track. The piece showcased the City Corporation's contribution to sport to a national and international audience and pushed corporate messaging on a recent £2m City Corporation investment in the facility.

34. This media summary is aligned to the Corporate Plan and focused on our role in creating a vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London, within a globally successful UK.

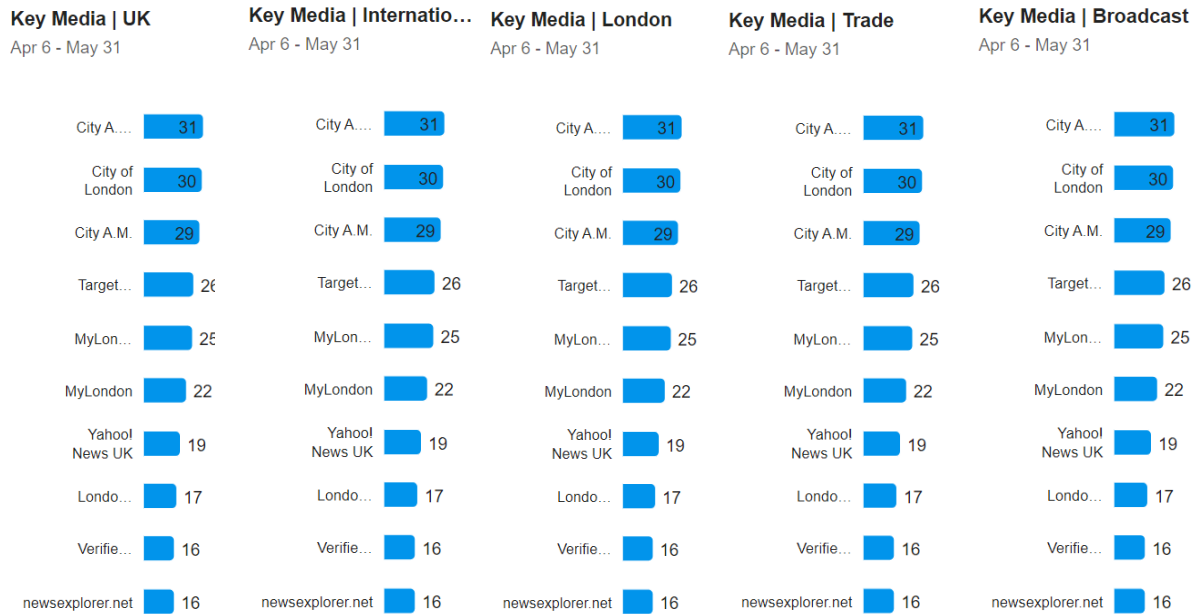
35. The below summary is intended to provide a short, high-level overview of media impact, alongside highlights of the most successful proactive media interventions.

Main report

Media Impact Analysis: Overview



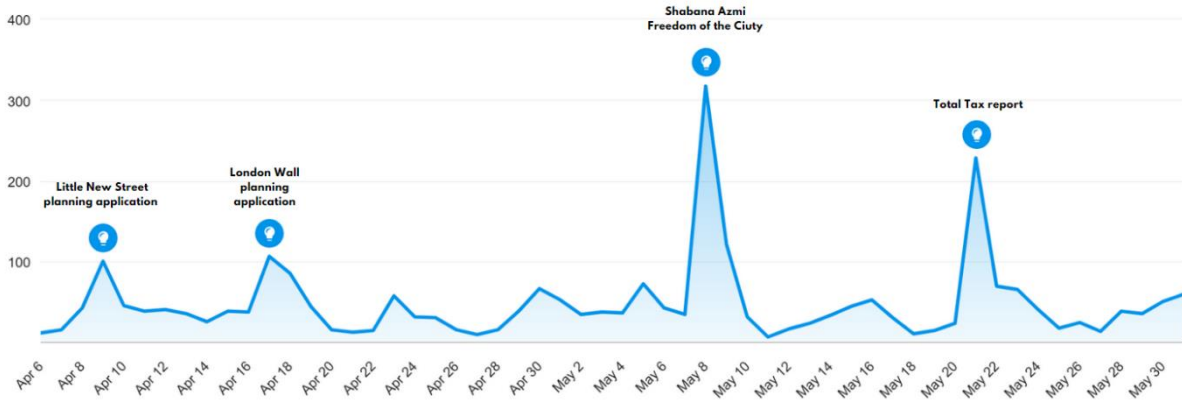
Key Media



Spikes in news and social media conversations

Total Mentions **2.63k** ↑ 15% Previous period 2.29k

Daily Average **46** ↑ 15% Previous period 40



Social media activity

<p>Total fans</p> <p>Compared to previous period</p> <p>151k</p> <p>↑ 3%</p>	<p>Total posts</p> <p>Compared to previous period</p> <p>408</p> <p>↑ 14%</p>	<p>Total impressions</p> <p>Compared to previous period</p> <p>1.21M</p> <p>↑ 39%</p>	<p>Total video views</p> <p>Compared to previous period</p> <p>11.5k</p> <p>↑ 246%</p>	<p>Total engagements</p> <p>Compared to previous period</p> <p>76k</p> <p>↑ 29%</p>	<p>Post link clicks</p> <p>Compared to previous period</p> <p>49.9k</p> <p>↑ 21%</p>
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What were your top performing posts?

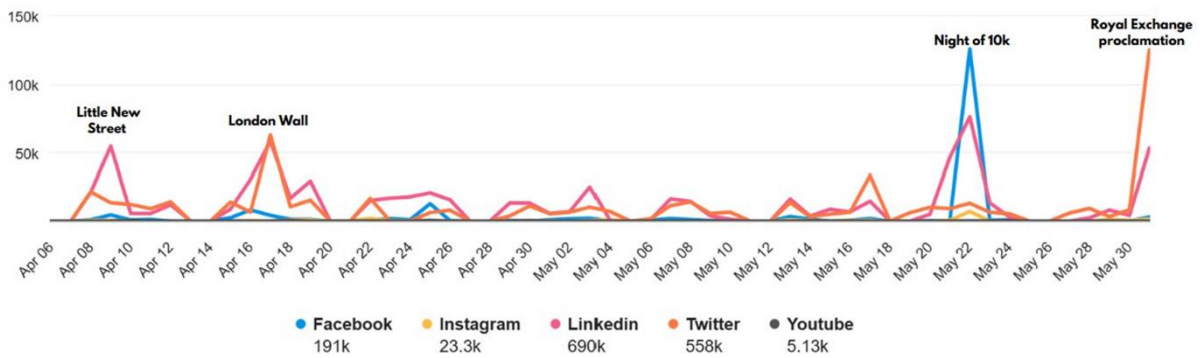
<p>Facebook</p> <p>@City of London Corporation: City View May 7 • 4:48 PM</p> <p>Three Canadian Indigenous leaders have been awarded the Freedom of the City of London at a ceremony today. Chief David Joseph, Jimmie of Squila First Nation, Chief Derek Anthony Epp of Tzeachten First Nation, and Chief Donald Maracle of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte.</p> <p>0 16 10 0</p> <p>19.14% Engagement Rate</p>	<p>Instagram</p> <p>@City of London Corporation Apr 18 • 2:53 PM</p> <p>A glimpse into the future of London's oldest public park. We're transforming Finsbury Circus Gardens into a tranquil haven for people to relax and spend time outside. Our project will be completed later this year. As well as making improvements to seating and...</p> <p>4 56</p> <p>13.73% Engagement Rate</p>	<p>Instagram Story</p> <p>@mayorofcamden May 21 • 4:02 PM</p> <p>29 2 120</p> <p>80.27% Completion Rate</p>	<p>Twitter</p> <p>@City of London Apr 23 • 11:55 AM</p> <p>Yesterday evening, we were delighted to host a reception to celebrate #EIGAfr2024, bringing hundreds of people to Guildhall, including representatives of Muslim and Interfaith communities across the Square Mile and beyond. https://t.co/mzpiKz6pfb</p> <p>1 7 2</p> <p>333.33% Engagement Rate</p>	<p>LinkedIn</p> <p>@City of London Corporation May 2 • 2:48 PM</p> <p>We are delighted to announce that Jon Fuller, Director of Breakthrough Energy will be speaking at the Net Zero Delivery Summit on 4 June. At this year's Summit, we'll be putting the need for innovative approaches and products at the heart of the agenda, and looking at the...</p> <p>0 1 0</p> <p>50.0% Engagement Rate</p>
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Social Media Impact Analysis: Corporate feeds overview

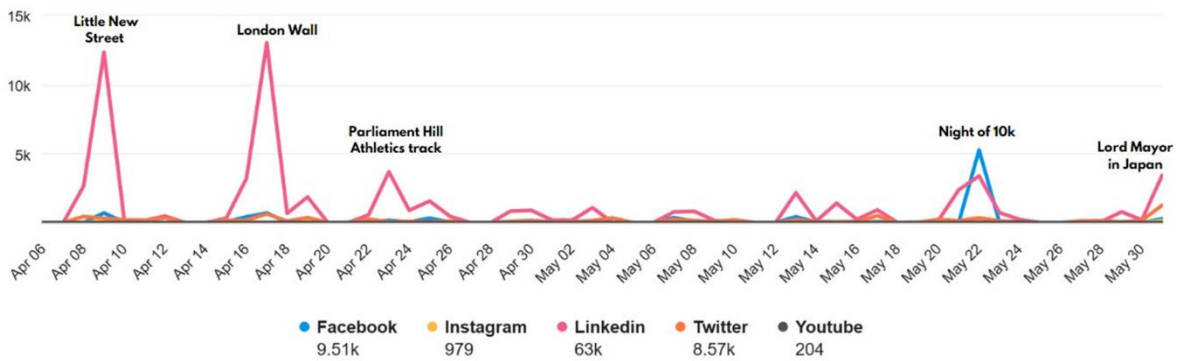
Profile	Audience	Net Audience Growth	Published Posts	Impressions	Engagements	Engagement Rate (per impression)	Video Views
Reporting Period Apr 6, 2023 – May 31, 2024	151,630 ↗ 23%	29,440 ↗ 5.5%	2,642 ↗ 52.7%	9,653,735 ↘ 21.1%	553,908 ↗ 22%	5.7% ↗ 54.7%	342,252 ↗ 66.6%
Compare to Feb 8, 2022 – Apr 5, 2023	123,311	27,908	1,730	12,240,192	453,933	3.7%	205,447
City of London Corpora...	61,124	17,764	931	4,663,867	401,401	8.6%	227,645
@cityoflondon	76,660	11,044	1,009	4,324,171	116,555	2.7%	99,212
City of London Corpora...	12,814	229	524	595,774	32,553	5.5%	3,248
cityoflondoncorp	1,032	403	178	69,923	3,399	4.9%	12,147

Name	Average Sent	Total Sent	Average Received	Total Received	Impressions	Clicks	Engagements	Video Views
Outcome: Diverse Engaged C...	0.55	30	0.07	4	102162	5351	7504	1315
Outcome: Dynamic Economic...	0.56	31	0.15	8	117147	2893	5430	7782
Outcome: Flourishing Public ...	0.25	14	0.02	1	53132	2935	4096	6669
Outcome: Leading Sustainabl ...	1.31	72	0.04	2	90951	1715	2995	14437
Outcome: Providing Excellent...	0.04	2	0.00	0	1360	19	79	0
Outcome: Vibrant Thriving De...	0.31	17	0.02	1	376673	5755	13321	770

Social media impressions



Social media engagement



Media Impact Analysis: Overview

Corporate plan outcome: Dynamic Economic Growth

36. A column on the newly launched Corporate Plan was placed in City A.M. as part of an integrated, multi-channel communications plan. In it, the Policy Chairman wrote about its wide-ranging impact, landing core messaging on how the City Corporation will deliver its priorities over the next five years.
37. Reuters reported on the Policy Chairman's evidence to the House of Lords' financial services regulation committee. The committee is scrutinising competitiveness ahead of the first annual report on the subject from regulators.
38. The Media Team landed an op-ed by the Policy Chairman in the Evening Standard, which outlined the key priorities of the City Plan 2040, which will be pivotal in moving London forward.
39. The Times, Reuters, City A.M., and eight other outlets covered the City Corporation's new foreign direct investment figures, which show that the UK leads investment in Europe.
40. Following a proactive sell-in, the Policy Chairman was quoted in City A.M. and the Daily Mail on a new study showing the value of the financial services sector to the UK economy. The study showed that financial services firms contributed over £110bn in taxes last year, making up 12.3 per cent of total tax receipts.
41. The Media Team achieved significant in-market coverage on the Policy Chairman's regional and international visits. In Greater Manchester, the Media Team secured interviews with Manchester Evening News and Business Live about boosting financial and professional services links. The piece focused on supporting London and Manchester's growing fintech and start-up firms. In Dublin, the Irish Times interviewed the Policy Chairman on the importance of UK-Dublin financial services ties across tech and sustainability. He spoke to Finews in Switzerland and called the Berne Financial Services Agreement the "starting point" for future services-led collaboration between Switzerland and the UK.
42. The Policy Chairman was quoted in Fintech Finance, a leading tech publication, on a new joint report with Innovate Finance. The report calls for the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to introduce a 'RegTech Test' to help assess how technology can best enable regulatory compliance. The piece also discussed a wider range of regulatory initiatives when considering the policy impact on compliance technologies.
43. Politico quoted the Policy Chairman following the signing of a letter of objection with financial services trade associations to the Financial Conduct Authority over its plans to name firms under investigation.
44. As part of a proactive communications plan for the Lord Mayor's visit to Singapore and Japan, the Lord Mayor was interviewed on CNBC's flagship morning show Squawk Box, Nikkei Asia and three in-market Japanese outlets. The Lord Mayor

emphasised the importance of the UK-Singapore relationship, where 40% of the UK's trade with the Southeast Asia region resides. Meanwhile, in his City A.M. column, the Lord Mayor reflected on how the UK and Japan can thrive. Social media posts from the trip generated 3,020 engagements, including 2,089 video views with a reach of 16,700 engagements.

45. CNN and Arab News interviewed the Lord Mayor at the World Economic Forum in Riyadh. He discussed the importance of strong trade ties between the UK and the Gulf. Further coverage in leading UAE papers Al Majalla, Al-Eqtisadiyah newspaper, Saudi Arabia News Gazette, and 20 other outlets.
46. Widespread coverage was secured in both the national and London-based media of the City Corporation's decision to approve the planning proposals for the London Wall West site in BBC News, Telegraph, Evening Standard, Daily Mail Online, Financial Times, and Bloomberg. There was also wide pick up across built environment trade press. Social media posts generated 29 engagements, including 11 likes, with a reach of 6,130 impressions.
47. Italian national media outlets RAI TV and Imperia TV covered the Lord Mayor's trip to Italy. The Lord Mayor talked about his focus on building UK-Italy relations in fintech, shipping and AI and how the City continues to thrive after Brexit. Most Italian national papers covered the visit. Social media posts generated 498 engagements with a reach of 20,600.
48. Widespread coverage was secured for the Easter Banquet, which several photographers and broadcasters attended. The Banquet was featured in over 20 outlets, including the BBC, Independent, Financial Times, Sky News, and Daily Mail. Social media posts generated 285 engagements with a reach of 7,260 impressions.
49. Following a proactive sell-in, The Sunday Times and BBC published a feature article looking at the last days of Smithfield Market as it prepares to move out of the City. The article reflected on the market's rich history, how it impacted London, and what the future holds following its relocation.

Corporate plan outcome: Vibrant Thriving Destination

50. Following a proactive announcement, City A.M. exclusively reported that Former Lord Mayor Sir William Russell had been elected Chair of the City Corporation's Barbican Centre Board. The piece reached a core business and political audience, carrying core messaging on the Barbican and Destination City. Leading sector trade The Stage also covered the story. Social media posts on X and LinkedIn generated 788 engagements with a reach of 24,671 impressions.

Corporate plan outcome: Flourishing Public Spaces

51. BBC Sport National featured live national and international coverage online and via the Red Button on demand of the 'Night of the 10K PBs' event at Parliament Hill athletics track. Thousands of athletes made the journey to participate in the races, including the UK trials for the Paris Olympic selection. The Chair of the

Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee was interviewed by BBC Sports Presenter and former international track runner, Jo Ankier, pushing corporate messaging on a recent £2m City Corporation investment into the facility and the recreational benefits of Hampstead Heath. Also in the Evening Standard, Camden New Journal, Ham and High, and UK Run Chat. Social media posts generated 7,102 engagements, including 6,702 video views, with a reach of 18,800.

52. Following a proactive announcement, the Evening Standard revealed new City Corporation images showing how Finsbury Circus Gardens will look in the future. It came as a project to transform the Grade II listed site, which is London's oldest public park, got underway. The Chair of the Natural Environment Board, and the Chair of the Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee were quoted, with the piece carrying core messaging on open spaces and Destination City. More coverage was secured in leading trade Horticulture Week, and leading London consumer titles, TimeOut and Secret London. Social media posts generated 3,111 engagements with a reach of 26,500 which is a high engagement rate of 12.7% (average for this reporting period is 4.57%).
53. The Evening Standard carried a story about the proposed Greyfriars Square scheme with images showing initial designs for a new public place by St Paul's Cathedral. The proposals seek to close the carriageway at King Edward Street and the Newgate Street Slip Road and create approximately 3,000 square metres of new public space, including a children's play area.

Corporate plan outcome: Providing Excellent Services

54. Following a proactive sell-in, City Matters carried an article encouraging eligible residents and workers in the Square Mile to get their Covid-19 spring vaccine jabs. The Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee reached a 55,000 audience – including many residents - urging people to book their jabs or visit their local walk-in service.
55. Coverage was secured in leading sector trade Police Professional about Tijs Broeke's election as Chair of the City of London Police Authority Board. Social media posts generated 327 engagements with a reach of 17,803 impressions.
56. The Evening Standard exclusively covered the former Chair of the Police Authority Board's statutory annual refresh of the 2022-25 City Policing Plan, delivered at the Court of Common Council. Reaching a large London commuter, business, and political audience, the article ran key messaging on the role of the Police Authority Board and how the City of London Police is combatting fraud. Further coverage in sector trade Police Professional.
57. Following a proactive media announcement, City Matters reported that the City Corporation had opened a new rough sleeping assessment centre in the Square Mile which offers 14 short-stay beds to rough sleepers. The former Chairman of the City Corporation's Community and Children's Services Committee was quoted, delivering core lines on how City Corporation supports the Square Mile's rough sleeper population. Social media post generated 277 engagements with a reach of 5,770 impressions.

58. Coverage was secured in the Evening Standard and ITV News London which reported that almost 1,000 cyclists have been fined for jumping red lights during a crackdown at Bank junction. City of London Police officers also made 80 arrests, seized 192 illegal e-bikes and scooters, and gave safety advice to 8,663 people in nine months. The force also gave advice to cyclists outside the Mansion House. The Lord Mayor and the former Chair of the City of London Police Authority Board were quoted. Social media posts generated 89 engagements with a reach of 3,117 impressions.

Corporate plan outcome: Leading Sustainable Environment

59. As part of the communications plan ahead of the Net-Zero Delivery Summit the Financial Times's Sustainable Views carried a column from Lord Mayor marking Earth Day. The column highlights the importance of green finance to drive a just transition and how the Summit will convene key players to support with this ambition. Social media posts generated 138 engagements with a reach of 5,052 impressions.

Corporate plan outcome: Diverse Engaged Communities

60. Following a proactive sell-in widespread national coverage was achieved including in BBC News, Sky, The Guardian, Evening Standard, The Daily Mail, and The Daily Mirror, of the City Corporation's Common Cryer and Serjeant at Arms reading the Royal Proclamation on the Steps of The Royal Exchange. The ceremony marked the dissolving of the present Parliament and declared the calling of another. The Proclamation is issued in the Privy Council by His Majesty the King and, by tradition, it is read aloud during this ceremony. Social media posts generated 3,450 engagements with a reach of 149,000.

61. Several Indian publications covered the Freedom of the City of London award for veteran Indian actor Shabana Azmi, who was honoured in recognition of her prolific contribution to Indian cinema and as a campaigner for women's rights. The award presentation was part of celebrations to mark her 50 years in the industry at this year's UK Asian Film Festival – the world's longest-running South Asian film festival outside the Subcontinent. Social media posts generated 2,460 engagements with a reach of 17,200 impressions.

62. Dozens of Indian titles reported that the Freedom of the City of London was awarded to the spiritual leader and author Kamlesh D Patel. Celebrated for his teachings on meditation and spirituality, he was nominated for the City's award by Policy Chairman and elected Member Rehana Ameer. Social media posts generated 657 engagements with a reach of 14,600 impressions.

Social media transformation highlights

63. Instagram continues to grow quickly and we are piloting 'Stories' where we create shorts of posts. A recent one was viewed to the end nearly 80% of the time. Our new Flickr channel, www.flickr.com/photos/cityoflondon, has soft launched, and we are analysing visitor flow to calibrate the kind of content people are viewing. We

are now posting content from events more quickly and will refine our protocol for doing this and extend the pilot to promoting the feed more to stakeholders along with messaging they can amplify via their own feeds.

64. Our content creation capacity, while limited, continues to provide strong dividends. The City Plan 2040 consultation got our highest ever metrics (2,620 engagements with a reach of 50,877 impressions) compared to previous similar consultations where engagements were in the hundreds not thousands. This was thanks to more engaging video animations and graphics. We are adapting this successful format (tone, length, sizing, time between transitions) to promote other events such as a City Question Time where we also applied the events brand (colour, font).
65. Meltwater transition: media officers have now all completed the move to the new platform and are using it to post to and analyse our social media activity. This has already seen a rise in better cross platform posting generating more posts, impressions, and reach. We will further analyse this data when we have a solid quarter of posts to compare.
66. Meltwater project reporting: We are now able to offer more granular and live reporting on projects that looks at all media. An early example was City Plan 2040 where we could quickly see which content was working best, which journalists were interested and then focus our posts where they would get more engagements.
67. Meltwater data insights: We know the City Plan consultation did well as we 'tagged' the posts so we could track and analyse them. Our broader aim is to generate immediate, actionable insight reports that enable our new data-led approach. To that end, we're piloting systems to optimise tagging, a process requiring posts to be tagged thrice: for a Corporate Plan outcome, the project or subject, and with a unique identifier. We're committed to learning and adapting this approach to generate insights that foster enthusiasm and buy-in for our data-led approach, ensuring targeted and effective results.
68. Meltwater monitoring: We are currently calibrating a monitoring system for major incidents in the Square Mile. Significant spikes in chatter on from hundreds of keywords and phrases from previous incidents we have taught the system will be cross referenced with dozens of locations in the Square Mile and generate alerts. We expect to use this system to then monitor incidents or breaking news events as they develop. An early example of how useful this was in calibrating our response to a supplier of medical supplies being hacked; we quickly reviewed and confirmed our response was proportionate and thorough, while getting a list of UK journalists covering the story and being alerted if the story developed.
69. Meltwater bit.ly rollout: We have replaced the tool we use to list useful links across our main corporate social media channels. The new service is from Bit.ly and is integrated into Meltwater meaning we have much more flexibility. It allows us to apply our brand and schedule links and videos to appear and disappear, such as when we have a consultation. This is particularly useful on platforms such as Instagram that don't allow working links. You can view it here: <https://bit.ly/m/cityoflondon>.

Looking ahead

70. *To note: In line with S.2 of the Local Government Act 1986 which states that a local authority shall not publish any material which, in whole or in part, appears to be designed to affect support for a political party, all City of London Corporation upcoming media projects are being reviewed in this light and may be rescheduled until after the General Election.

71. July:

- 4th General Election
- 7 – 11th Lord Mayor in Netherlands
- 8th Policy Chairman in Birmingham
- TBC: Large scale 'Connect to Prosper' group Freedom ceremony held at The Mansion House (TBC)

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Annex F – Internal Communications and Staff Engagement Summary

72. The main focus for Internal Communications over the past month has been the Staff Survey – the first since the Town Clerk joined the organisation. A variety of communications channels were used to both raise awareness and encourage completion. This included creating an information hub featuring a ‘You said, We did’ article (covering what positive work had been achieved since the last survey), a video featuring the Town Clerk and a countdown clock.
73. The landing page had 2,291 views and the Town Clerk’s target completion rate was exceeded (72% against a target of 70%).
74. Internal Communications is now assisting in the next Town Clerk’s ‘Town Hall’ session planned for 25 June at the City of London School and will focus on Equity, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, with the guest speaker being Sandi Wassmer, CEO of the Employers Network for Equality & Inclusion. The team will produce a video to support the event which will focus on the work of the Staff Networks. The in-person capacity has already been reached and staff are now being invited to join via Teams and managers will be encouraged to allow them to ‘attend’.
75. The next Town Hall is scheduled for the end of September 2024 and will feed back on the results of the Staff Survey.
76. Our evolved approach to engaging employees in our transformation is exemplified in the Communications and Engagement Plan we are delivering for Ambition 25. The focus in May and June (i.e. Phase 1) has been a fundamental back to basics programme of re-educating our leaders on the aims and outcomes, providing them with new materials including a presentation, script and Q&A. All leaders have been provided with training on how to deliver the presentation, and how to handle questions. A new set of Colnet pages include a full set of Q&A with upfront messaging about how the programme differs from previous organisational change. Ambition 25 updates continue to feature in key institutional communications from the Town Clerk and in the Team Briefing.
77. Phase 2 in July and September 2024 will ensure that those colleagues who want to know more about the new pay and grading structures and how the process works in detail can do so with deep dive sessions available to all staff. Whilst some colleagues will not be interested in further engagement until they are able to understand what the mapping means for them, we must ensure that those colleagues who do want to know more, are able to do so – and we will encourage as many as possible to engage.
78. A review is currently being carried out in conjunction with Member Services about how and when information is sent to Members. This is centred on the Members Briefing issued at the end of every month but will also look at the mid-month Members Update, ad hoc communication via email and the Members Portal on the intranet. This is with a view to ensuring Members can access the information they want but streamlining the process where possible.

79. The Team is now developing three new channels of engagement with staff through a mixture of hybrid meetings, videos and podcasts with an emphasis on interviewing colleagues at different locations and in particular relating their work back to Corporate Plan Outcomes and People Strategy Objectives. They are also looking to establish an Employee Engagement Network to identify, plan and share messaging around internal communications generally.

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Agenda Item 7

Committee(s)	Dated:
Communications and Corporate Affairs (Policy & Resources) Committee	1 st July
General Purposes Committee of Alderman	16 th July
Subject: Mayoral Priorities 2024-25 Alderman Alastair King (Subject to Election)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Dynamic Economic Growth, Diverse Engaged Communities, Vibrant Thriving Destination
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
Report of: Caroline Jack, Executive Director & Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor Damian Nussbaum, Director of Innovation & Growth Greg Moore, Deputy Town Clerk Dionne Corradine, Chief Strategy Officer	For Discussion
Report author: Catherine Rooney, Senior Programme Manager (Projects and Planning), Office of Lord Mayor & Mansion House	

Summary

This report outlines the proposed mayoral theme to be championed, subject to election, by the Lord Mayor of London 2024-25, Alderman Alastair King. The Mayoral Theme – **Growth Unleashed** - will empower the City and its communities to seize opportunities, maximise growth and succeed.

This report sets out the final version of the theme and key activities that will be undertaken during the Mayoral year, following the preliminary ‘high-level’ theme that was agreed at previous C&CA and GPA committees.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the 2024-2025 Mayoral Priorities as set out in this Report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Mayoral Priorities identify the key areas of focus to be championed, convened and/or communicated by the Lord Mayor during their term in office.
2. The Mayoral Priorities highlight the specific areas of the City of London Corporation’s Corporate Plan 2024-29 and Corporate Strategies that the Lord Mayor will amplify during their year in office.
3. The Mayoral Priorities provide an overview of the key deliverables, outcomes and primary workstreams to be undertaken during the Mayoralty. It identifies

the specific areas of focus that consider the business, social and economic priorities of the City of London, the City Corporation, and the causes to be championed by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Alastair King (subject to election).

Mayoral Theme Proposal

4. *Growth Unleashed* will focus on driving growth through challenging industry to maximise opportunities through responsible risk taking, driving the adoption of technologies that give us the competitive advantage and celebrating the successes and diverse communities within our square mile.
5. The City and UK Financial and Professional Services sector is globally recognised and celebrated. As demonstrated in the recent competitiveness benchmarking report published by the COLC, the City ranks as the number one financial market in the world.
6. This leadership is not without competitive threats. Maintaining the world leading position is dependent on the City's people, infrastructure, and culture. Successes must be celebrated to ensure the perception of the City matches its ranking, and we must support our stakeholders in continuing to drive economic growth and the City's competitive advantage.
7. The Mayoral Theme will be split in to three pillars of activity:
 - Risk optimisation
 - White heat of technology
 - Communities

All activity will have the high-level objective of driving growth.

8. Central activities for the Mayoral Theme are outlined in Annex A.

Corporate, Strategic & Financial Implications

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. The Mayoral Framework is being developed in partnership with departments across the corporation to minimise duplication and maximise amplification of key activity. These include, Innovation and Growth, Corporate Strategy, Communications and Corporate Affairs, Remembrancers and the Office of the Policy Chairman. Other areas across the corporation may be engaged as the theme develops.
10. The Mayoral Framework will align with the outcomes of the Corporate Plan 2024-2029, effective 1 April 2024. This will ensure that the mayoralty continues to support and reflect the City Corporation's strategic objectives, as outlined in Annex B. This includes links to the Equality Objectives and a commitment to take a community-centred approach in planning and delivering activities.

11. The Mayoral Framework supports the recommendations in the corporation's Vision for Economic Growth Report and is aligned to the Competitiveness Strategy 2021-25. This will ensure that the mayoralty will amplify and strengthen the Corporation's overall ambitions and strategy (Annex B).
12. Noting the scheduled general election and its implications, the mayoral programme will be agile and able to adapt to align with broader national strategies for economic growth and the FPS sector.
13. Ensuring mayoral continuity, the year will build on the work of the *Financing our Future (2022-23)* mayoralty, unlocking funds for investment in high growth opportunities, and the *Connect to Prosper (2023-24)* mayoralty, demonstrating the City's leadership in science and technology.

Financial and Resourcing Implications

14. Existing departmental/project budgets will be used to deliver the activities outlined in this paper. In the unlikely event that supplementary budget were required, this would be requested through Resource Allocation Sub (Policy and Resources) or other relevant Committees to amplify existing City Corporation activities and/or deliver additional activity under *Growth Unleashed*.

Conclusion

15. The 2024-25 Proposed Mayoral Programme *Growth Unleashed* will amplify the established narrative that the City of London is the World's number one financial centre, empowering the FPS sector to be confident in maximising opportunities and driving competitive growth.

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Annex A – *Growth Unleashed* core activities

Activity	Objective	Lead delivery	Supported by
Series of engagements to advocate appropriate risk appetite	Engage regulators, CEOs and CROs to challenge unnecessary risk aversion.	IG	MH, C&CA
Hackathon series	Bring diverse expertise together to incubate and accelerate emerging tech potential in the City, to discover tangible benefits for UK FPS.	IG	External partners
Launch City Belonging square mile community networks	Amplify and support ongoing work of community groups in City to maximise contribution to UK FPS. Provide the City of London Corporation with a direct route to new audiences and individuals from these distinct groups, to inform the planning and development of relevant City hosted events.	C&CA	MH
Two-year review of secondary competitive objective (SCO)	Share best practice and areas for improvement to facilitate growth.	IG	
Mansion House Compact progress review	Measure progress of compact against objectives and agree next steps as necessary.	IG	MH
Mayoral visit programme with tilt to growth economies and winning mandates	Create tangible opportunities for UK FPS internationally.	IG, MH	
Scale-up showcase	Connect scale up businesses to investors.	External Partner	MH, IG
Lord Mayor's Awards	Agile tool to recognise and celebrate City and UK businesses and the positive contribution they make.	TBC	TBC

Annex B – *Growth Unleashed* link to Corporate Plan 2024-29 and COL Strategies

Mayoral Pillar	Corporate Plan 2024-29	Strategic alignment
Risk Optimisation	Dynamic Economic Growth, Vibrant Thriving Destination.	Vision for Economic Growth, Competitiveness Strategy, Competitiveness benchmarking, Mansion House Compact, Risk Strategy 2024-29.
White heat of new technologies	Dynamic Economic Growth, Vibrant Thriving Destination.	Vision for Economic Growth, Competitiveness Strategy,

		competitiveness benchmarking, Mansion House Compact.
Communities	Diverse Communities, Engaged Dynamic Economic Growth.	City Belonging, Destination City.

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Agenda Item 8

Committee(s): Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee	Dated: 1 July 2024
Subject: Party Conferences 2024	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	Local budget
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Emily Tofield, Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs	For Decision
Report author: Kristy Sandino, Assistant Director, Corporate Affairs	

Summary

The City of London Corporation delivers a proactive programme of engagement at the annual Liberal Democrat, Labour, Conservative, Scottish National Party (SNP) and Green party conferences.

The Corporate Affairs Team lead on development and the organisation of the entire City Corporation party conference programme, including arranging and overseeing all events and activity taking place. Members, as well as officers from Corporate Affairs and Remembrancers Team attend party conferences on behalf of the City Corporation, representing the organisation through attendance at City Corporation organised events, other fringe events, bilateral meetings with political and business representatives and other strategic engagement opportunities.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked:

- To note the plans for the City Corporation's events at this year's party conferences.
- To discuss the size of future Member delegations and agree that that a final proposal on future Member delegations will be delivered to Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee for decision following party conferences in 2024.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Corporation has attended the major party conferences every year since 1994, with the level of involvement and visibility (and numbers of Member attendees) increasing over time. Traditionally, Members of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee are invited to attend the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative party conferences, with the Policy Chairman additionally attending the Scottish National Party (SNP) conference.
2. The Corporate Affairs Team organises and funds both public and private events at Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat party conferences on behalf of the City Corporation. The City Corporation has hosted events at the SNP conference in recent years and has also attended the Green Party conference in an observer capacity in the past. Following the sub-committee taking place in February, a decision was taken that the Policy Chairman would not attend SNP Conference in 2024, and an Officer would observe and engage at the conference.
3. The purpose of the City Corporation's activities at party conferences is to deliver a programme of strategic engagement on issues of importance to the organisation with relevant politicians, policymakers and business figures and the political media. City Corporation party conference activity is a significant part of the Policy Chairman's political engagement and City Corporation advocacy and provides an excellent opportunity for Members and officers to meet many political contacts in one place. It also is a way for politicians and key stakeholders to build an understanding of the City Corporation and our strategic priorities. In 2024, with the potential for a high influx of new MPs, this awareness raising exercise is critical.

Overall Approach to Programme

4. City Corporation activities are reviewed on a yearly basis to adapt to its own priorities and the current political and socio-economic environment. This year, the Corporate Affairs Team is organising:
 - a. An invitation-only roundtable in partnership with a think tank at the Conservative, Labour, and Liberal Democrat conferences. These roundtables will be chaired by the Policy Chairman and an additional Member of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee may be invited to attend at the discretion of the Policy Chairman.
 - b. An invitation-only dinner hosting between 40-100 people at the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat conferences. The dinners bring together key local, regional and national political representatives, businesses, think tanks and academics. The Policy Chairman gives a keynote speech as well as an external political guest.

- c. Two additional open fringe events in partnership with a think tank at the Labour and Conservative conferences. These interventions will afford the Policy Chairman the opportunity to communicate our key messages to a wider external audience, including a politician.
5. It is important that the City Corporation continues to receive value for money and, to ensure the success of future events, in 2024 we have looked into new partners to facilitate the highest level of political engagement across all fringe events. As a matter of course, the Corporate Affairs Team reviews partners each year.
6. Officers from Corporate Affairs organise and deliver the variety of Corporation-hosted events, and manage the programme for the Chairman of Policy and other senior Members. Officers from both Corporate Affairs and Remembrancer's teams will ensure City Corporation messaging is emphasised across the range of conference activities, and provide detailed political intelligence reports during the course of each conference and afterwards via the Parliamentary Brief.

Proposals

7. The proposed format of events for the party conferences this autumn is:
 - a. Scottish National Party Conference, Friday 30th August to Sunday 1st September 2024, Edinburgh.
 - Plan: For an Officer to observe the conference and not organise any City Corporation funded events.
 - b. Liberal Democrat Party Conference - 14-17 September 2024, Brighton.
 - Plan: To host a private roundtable with a political representative in partnership with Social Market Foundation, covering a policy area of relevance to the City Corporation. To host a sit-down dinner of approximately 40 attendees with a select and focused guest list from the business, political and policy related sectors.
 - c. Labour Party Conference - 21-25 September 2024, Liverpool.
 - Plan: To host a private roundtable with a political representative in partnership with Labour Together, covering a policy area relating economic growth. To host an open fringe event in partnership with either IPPR or Fabian's Society, covering a policy area of relevance to the City Corporation. To host a sit-down dinner of 80-100 attendees with a select and focused guest list from the business, political and policy related sectors.
 - d. Conservative Party Conference, 29th September - 2nd October 2024, Birmingham.

- Plan: To host a private roundtable with a political representative in partnership with Onward, covering growth capital. To host an open fringe event in partnership with Centre for Policy Studies, covering a policy area of relevance to the City Corporation. To host a sit-down dinner of 80-100 attendees with a select and focused guest list from the business, political and policy related sectors.
- e. Green Party Conference, TBC.
- Plan: For an officer to observe the conference and not organise any City Corporation funded events.
8. Co-operative Party, dates and location TBC.
- It has been suggested it may be prudent to engage with the Co-operative Party. For 2024, it is suggested that an officer observe the conference and not organise any events.
9. Dinner venues and hotel rooms have been secured at the three main party conference venues for 2024. The Corporate Affairs Team continues to work with the suggested external partners to finalise the arrangements for our events.
10. The Corporate Affairs Team will also proactively outreach to organisations to propose attendance for the Policy Chairman, and relevant officials, at other events across the conferences.

Attendance at Party Conferences

11. As agreed by the then PRED Sub Committee in 2017, all Members of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee have been invited to attend party conferences as City Corporation representatives and are therefore eligible for a two-day commercial guest party conference pass, with the cost being met from the party conference budget.
12. The intention of Member attendance is for them to represent the City Corporation, and use their experience, connections and knowledge, across the range of conference events, not only at the City Corporation's hosted events. Members have played a key role as representatives, speakers and hosts at the Corporation's party conference activities.
13. As there has just been a general election, it is important that in 2024 the City Corporation aims to maximise our engagement, particularly if there are a large amount of new MPs, as projected.
14. It is therefore suggested that for 2024, all Members of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee are invited to attend party conferences as City Corporation representatives and remain eligible for a two-day commercial guest party conference pass, with the cost being met from the Corporate Affairs party conference budget.

15. However, in light of inflation, think tank partnership costs, hotel costs and conferences pass costs have all increased. For example, compared with 2022, 2023 Labour Conference passes increased by 17.9%. From 2023 to 2024, a day pass at Labour Party Conference pass has increased by 21.7%. The Corporate Affairs Team communicated during the City's budget process that it expected overall costs to rise 10 – 20 per cent due to inflation and the final budget confirmed this estimate.
16. The City Corporation Member delegation has steadily increased in size in recent years. For instance,
- a. Last year, the Liberal Democrat party conference was held in Bournemouth from 23 – 26 September. A total of six (6) members of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee attended the conference (7 member passes purchased). In 2022, for comparison, five (5) members attended. A Member was ill and unable to attend, hence the drop in numbers between purchasing and attending.
 - b. Last year's Conservative party conference was held in Manchester from 1 – 4 October. A total of 12 Members of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee attended the conference (12 member passes purchased). In 2022, for comparison, ten (10) members attended.
 - c. Last year's Labour party conference was held in Liverpool from 8 – 11 October. A total of 11 Members of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee attended the conference (13 passes purchased for Members). In 2022, for comparison, nine (9) members attended. Two Members were ill and unable to attend, hence the drop in numbers between purchasing and attending.
17. It is proposed that the size of the official Member delegation is possibly reduced from 2025 to ensure that the City Corporation continues to deliver a party conference programme that represents best value for money. Last year, for the first time, additional teams beyond the Corporate Affairs Team and Remembrancers also requested their officers were accredited.
18. The options posed for consideration:
- a. Chair of Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee, Policy Chairman, Deputy Policy Chairman (3)
 - b. Policy Leadership representatives on Chair of Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee and Chair of Chair of Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee (4)
 - c. Chair of Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee, Policy Leadership representatives that sit on Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee and Member Leads that sit on Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee (7)
 - d. No change; all Members of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee invited.

19. As is the current process, it is suggested that all Members of Policy & Resources Committee are invited to attend the dinners at each party conference, at their own cost, should they be at Conference. Select senior Officers will also be invited to attend the dinners at party conference.

20. It is proposed that a final proposal on future Member delegations be delivered to Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee for decision following party conferences in 2024.

Key Data

21. None

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

22. Engaging with political stakeholders, organising events associated with the party political conferences and working with think tanks and other third-party organisations to produce events and associated policy reports provides an opportunity for the City Corporation to engage with key audiences on important global, national and local government issues and to demonstrate the City Corporation's involvement in relevant debates. Sponsorship and political engagement would also help deliver the six outcomes of the new Corporate Plan.

Financial implications

23. The Corporate Affairs Team has an established budget for 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

24. None

Legal implications

25. None

Risk implications

26. None

Equalities implications

27. None

Climate implications

28. None

Security implications

29. None

Conclusion

30. Members are asked to note the plans for the City Corporation's involvement at the 2024 party conferences.

31. Members are asked to discuss the size of future Member delegations and agree that a final proposal on future Member delegations will be delivered to Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee for decision following party conferences in 2024.

Appendices

- None

Background Papers

- None

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Committee(s): Communications and Corporate Affairs (Policy & Resources) Committee – For information	Dated: 01/07/2024
Subject: Parliamentary Team Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Diverse Engaged Communities, Dynamic Economic Growth Leading Sustainable Environment Vibrant Thriving Destination Providing Excellent Services Flourishing Public Spaces
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 Wright, City Remembrancer	For Discussion
Report author: William Stark, Senior 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 to the sub-committee on 24 April 2024. Activity relating directly to the General Election, undertaken jointly with the Corporate Affairs team is the subject of a separate joint report to the sub-committee.

Recommendation(s)

Members are recommended to note the report.

Main Report

Legislative Programme Update

1. The surprise announcement of a general election for the 4th July brought the legislative agenda to a shuddering halt, with only two days of “wash up” time before Parliament was prorogued ahead of its dissolution. The limited wash up period saw an effort to take Bills near to completion across the line, however this process necessitated the prioritising of some Bills over others. For example, the **Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act** made it over the line as did the **Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act**, whereas the **Data Protection and Digital Information Bill** did not. Public Bills are not permitted to be “carried over” following a dissolution of Parliament, so any Bills lost will have to be re-introduced, with any previous proceedings disregarded. Notably, a number of Private Members’ Bills made it through in the last sitting days of

the parliament. These measures, such as the **Building Societies Act 1986 (Amendment) Act**, were generally uncontroversial, facilitating a quick passage through their final stages.

2. The King's Speech following the general election is scheduled to take place on 17th July 2024, where the incoming government's legislative agenda will be set out. As usual, the Office will, in consultation with relevant departments, analyse the legislative agenda and provide an update to this subcommittee.

Acts passed before dissolution

3. **Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act** – Of particular importance for the tech sector, the Act grants new and expanded powers to the Competition and Markets Authority in respect of digital markets, competition and consumer protection, including creating a new regime for regulating large businesses with a significant market presence in digital activities, expanding the CMA's existing investigation and enforcement powers in respect of competition issues and equips the CMA with powers to enforce breaches of consumer protection laws directly, including through the imposition of fines of up to 10% of global annual turnover for non-compliance.
4. **Paternity Leave (Bereavement) Act** – Expands eligibility for leave to fathers or partners who experience the death of a child's mother, adoptive or surrogate parent. (Private Members' Bill)
5. **Building Societies Act 1986 (Amendment) Act** – Enables societies across the UK to raise more funds from sources other than member savings and bring some administrative rules in line with those which apply to banks. (Private Members' Bill)
6. **British Nationality (Irish Citizens) Act** – Allows Irish citizens who have been resident in the UK for five years to acquire British citizenship through registration. (Private Members' Bill)
7. **Victims and Prisoners Act 2024** – The Act places the key principles of the Victims' Code in statute and sets out the minimum level of service victims can expect from criminal justice agencies. It also introduces an Independent Public Advocate to support victims and the bereaved when a major incident occurs to provide support and guidance. During Commons proceedings, the Bill was amended to create a compensation scheme for the victims of the infected blood scandal. This was a Labour amendment initially opposed by the Government, but was conceded by Ministers in the wash up before dissolution. A report on the Act will be prepared for the Police Authority Board.
8. **Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act 2024** – Provisions of the Act include those that aim to make it easier and cheaper for leaseholders to buy their freehold, it increases standard lease extension terms to 990 years for houses and flats, and aims to provide greater transparency over service charges. It also removes barriers for leaseholders to challenge landlords' unreasonable charges at Tribunal. It bans the sale of new leasehold houses (but not flats)

other than in exceptional circumstances, ends excessive buildings insurance commissions for freeholders and managing agents, and removes the requirement for a new leaseholder to have owned their house or flat for two years before they can buy or extend their lease. Provisions also allow freehold homeowners on private and mixed tenure estates the same rights of redress as leaseholders, and equivalent rights to transparency over their estate charges, and aims to make it easier for leaseholders to take over the management of their property if they want to.

9. Other Acts passed include **Post Office (Horizon System) Offences Act** (which quashes convictions of innocent postmasters who have been incorrectly prosecuted), the **Media Act** (which updates the existing legislative framework on broadcasting governance), the **Pet Abduction Act** (which creates two new criminal offences of dog abduction and cat abduction) and the **Zoological Society of London (Leases) Act** (which increases the maximum term of the organisation's lease on its Regent's Park site from 60 years to up to 150 years)
10. Separately, the **Pedicabs (London) Act** received Royal Assent before the announcement of a general election.
11. Bills of interest which fell at dissolution
 - **Arbitration Bill**
 - **Criminal Justice Bill**
 - **Data Protection and Digital Information Bill**
 - **Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill**
 - **Renters Reform Bill**
 - **Tobacco and Vapes Bill**
 - Private Members' Bills including **Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation Bill** and **Space Industry (Indemnities) Bill**.

City Corporation Private Legislation

12. The **City of London (Markets) Bill** fell when Parliament was dissolved. The Bill received its Second Reading in its first House, the House of Commons, on 6 February 2023 but it had not otherwise made progress since being deposited in November 2022.

Forward Look and Engagement Update

13. The dissolution period is being used to ramp up ongoing preparations for engaging with a new parliament. Further detail on this work will be provided in a separate paper to this subcommittee, however outline steps include identifying engagement priorities for the Policy Chairman, drafting template letters of welcome to incoming MPs, analysing if Corporation assets have changed constituencies given boundary changes, assessing opportunities for political events after the election and preparations to analyse the legislative agenda of an incoming government.

14. The annual Parliamentary Terrace Reception has been postponed, as it was due to take place within the pre-election period. It has provisionally been rescheduled for late October.
15. Planned meetings of the APPG for Financial Markets and Services on the UK-EU relationship in financial services and the future of UK capital markets have been postponed due the election. During the dissolution period, APPGs cease to exist and the group will need to be re-constituted following the election.
16. The election has also delayed a planned meeting of the Industry and Parliament Trust on economic diplomacy, which will now take place in October.

Engagement prior to the general election

17. Prior to the announcement of a general election, the Policy Chairman was invited to give evidence to the House of Lords Financial Services Regulation Committee, alongside Director of Policy and Innovation and Kerstin Mathias. The session explored the FCA and PRA's implementation of their new secondary competitiveness objectives. The Office, working closely with IG colleagues, led on preparations for the session. Follow up evidence will be submitted when the Committee is reconstituted after the general election.
18. The Office submitted several Parliamentary debate briefings, including a briefing for a House of Common's debate on biodiversity loss which highlighted the City Corporation's Biodiversity Loss Action plan. The team shared a briefing ahead of a Westminster Hall debate on the UK Space Industry, led by Mark Garnier (Con), which led to a mention for the Lord Mayor's Space Debris Removal Insurance Bonds (SPADRIBS) initiative and a positive follow up email from Garnier. Another set out the City Corporation's skills programmes and policy asks ahead of a House of Lords debate on skills for the future economy. During the debate, the City Corporation received a positive mention, with Baroness Garden of Frogmal (Lib Dem) citing the City and the livery companies as 'major players' in the delivery of skills. The team also received a positive follow up emails from Lord Hampton (Crossbench) and the debate leader, Lord Aberdare (Crossbench), with their thanks for sharing a helpful briefing.
19. The Office is in discussion with the British-American Parliamentary Group regarding future opportunities for collaboration. Members of the group attended a Guildhall reception to mark the opening of the Corporation's US office, and it is hoped that scope for further engagement may be found during the new parliament.
20. Officers attended a meeting of the APPG for Fair Business Banking for a panel discussion with Government Anti-Fraud Champion Simon Fell MP, Shadow Attorney General Emily Thornberry MP to coincide with the launch of fraud prevention service CIFAS's 2024 Fraud Pledge. The Office is liaising closely with the Police Authority Board team, IG and Comms colleagues regarding strong political interest in tackling fraud.

London Engagement

21. The 2024 London Mayoral election took place on 2 May, with Sadiq Khan returned for an unprecedented third term. Elections to the London Assembly saw the 25 seats split between Labour (11, no change on 2021), the Conservatives (8, down 1 on 2021), Greens (3, no change), Liberal Democrats (2, no change) and Reform (1, plus 1). While the Conservatives suffered a net loss of just one seat, several constituency seats they previously held were won by Labour and the Liberal Democrats. While the Assembly has now entered a pre-election period ahead of July's General Election, the Team will engage with new and returning members of the Assembly on matters of interest to the Corporation.

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