

<b>Committee</b> Public Relations and Economic Development Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 10 September 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Corporate Affairs Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Jan Gokcen, Corporate Affairs Officer	

### Summary

This report provides a monthly update of the Corporate Affairs team's activities in supporting the City Corporation's strategic political engagement.

The Corporate Affairs team coordinates and organises the City Corporation's political engagement and supports both Members and Officers in its delivery. The focus of this report is on the activity undertaken by the Policy Chair and the Lord Mayor.

The activities documented in this report focus largely on those lead by the Corporate Affairs team. Activities undertaken in partnership with other teams and/or departments are also included and have been appropriately termed.

Each area of activity is linked back to the objectives outlined in the Communications Business Plan.

The timeframe of this report spans the period lapsed between the previous and current meetings of this Sub Committee.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note this report.

### Main Report

#### Strategic Objectives

1. To fulfil the objectives set out in the Communications Business Plan set out for the Corporate Affairs team.

#### Overview

2. Based on developments in the domestic political and economic landscape and in line with the City Corporation's corporate priorities, the Corporate Affairs Team has focused its activity in the areas of engagement listed below.

## **Brexit**

3. Ahead of the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union, the Corporate Affairs team:
  - a. Monitored political developments in the UK and EU following the agreement between both parties to extend to the deadline for departure the UK's departure to 31 October;
  - b. Contributed to Brexit updates for the Policy Chair and Lord Mayor;
4. The above links to the following Business Plan objectives:
  - a. To have coordinated political engagement activity across the organisation;
  - b. To remain relevant in the policy-making and political sphere.

## **London – Local engagement and London promotion**

5. The Corporate Affairs team seeks to maintain and develop the City Corporation's engagement with communities, bodies and authorities across London. The Corporate Affairs team:
  - a. Drafted the Policy Chair's speaking remarks at the launch of the South London Downs National Nature Reserve;
  - b. Sponsored and delivered the Fabian Society's publication on challenges and opportunities for London in the 2020s. *Capital Gains: A Global City in a Changing World* features a series of contributions from a range of leading figures, including Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, Prof. Tony Travers and Frances O'Grady, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress. The Policy Chair wrote an essay outlining how London can continue to be a global city that attracts investment in the post-Brexit world;
  - c. Continued engagement with London boroughs.
6. The above links to the following Business Plan objectives:
  - a. To have coordinated political engagement activity across the organisation;
  - b. To remain relevant in the policy-making and political sphere;
  - c. To bring stakeholders together to discuss policy issues that affect them, and subsequently deliver on any desired outcome of that discussion.

## **Domestic Political Engagement**

7. The Corporate Affairs team organises engagement with key political representatives and decision-makers in government at local, regional and national levels. The Corporate Affairs team:

## **National Engagement**

- a. Issued Public Policy Bulletin on the appointment of Boris Johnson MP as Prime Minister and the subsequent Government reshuffle, alongside the REM office.

- b. Drafted letters of congratulations on behalf of the Policy Chair to the new Prime Minister and new Ministerial appointees.
  - c. Briefed and accompanied the Policy Chair for a meeting with Lord McFall, Senior Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, and Lord Sharkey, Chairman of the EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee;
  - d. Contributed to the Lord Mayor's briefing ahead of a meeting with Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester;
8. The above links to the following Business Plan objectives:
- a. To deliver clear, consistent and confident public messaging across the City Corporation;
  - b. To have coordinated political engagement activity across the organisation;
  - c. To remain relevant in the policy-making and political sphere;
  - d. To bring stakeholders together to discuss policy issues that affect them, and subsequently deliver on any desired outcome of that discussion.

### **International Engagement**

9. The Corporate Affairs team assists the City Corporation's overseas engagements undertaken by the Policy Chair and Lord Mayor. The Corporate Affairs team:
- a. Drafted the Policy Chair's speaking remarks for India Day, held at Mansion House;
  - b. Drafted the Policy Chair's speaking remarks for the Freedom ceremony of HE The Ambassador of Panama;
10. The above links to the following Business Plan objectives:
- a. To deliver clear, consistent and confident public messaging across the City Corporation.

### **Think Tanks and Third-Party organisations**

11. As part of the City Corporation's engagement with think tanks and other external organisations, the Corporate Affairs team:
- a. Drafted the Policy Chair's speaking remarks for the annual Bright Blue conference, hosted at Guildhall, which featured the now former Secretary of State for Education Damian Hinds MP, as the Guest Speaker;
  - b. Continued working with the Fabian Society on its report '*Using Arts and Culture to Enable Deprived Communities to Thrive*', which is sponsored by the City Corporation;
  - c. Drafted the Policy Chair's speaking remarks for the Re-Source UK conference on renewable energy.
12. The above links to the following Business Plan objectives:
- a. To bring stakeholders together to discuss policy issues that affect them, and subsequently deliver on any desired outcome of that discussion.

## **Party Conference**

13. In preparation of the City Corporation's annual programme at the major political party conferences, the Corporate Affairs team:
  - a. Finalised the general organisation of Party Conference activity for 2019, including think tank partnerships, private roundtables, open fringe event, sit-down dinners and general logistics.
  - b. Organised the Policy Chair's engagement programme at Party Conference.
  - c. Finalised the briefing packs for all members and associated agenda for verbal pre-conference Member's briefing
  
14. The above links to the following Business Plan objectives:
  - a. To remain relevant in the policy-making and political sphere;
  - b. To bring stakeholders together to discuss policy issues that affect them, and subsequently deliver on any desired outcome of that discussion.

## **Priorities for the next quarter**

15. Priorities for the Corporate Affairs team over the next four months are:
  - a. Delivering the City Corporation's attendance and activities at the Autumn party conferences.
  - b. Engaging with the new Government in place
  - c. Organising the third tranche of London Borough engagement for the Policy Chair.
  - d. Continuing to effectively communicate **(a)** Brexit messaging and associated risks/opportunities and **(b)** the London Fundamentals messaging, to key political stakeholders
  - e. Monitoring developments between the UK and the EU ahead of the October 31<sup>st</sup> Brexit deadline;
  - f. Continuing with the sports engagement programme which is the subject of a separate report to this Committee, every quarter.

### **Jan Gokcen**

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