

Committee(s)	Dated:
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee	10 September 2019
Subject: Parliamentary Team Update	Public
Report of: Paul Double, City Remembrancer	For Information
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Summary

This report updates Members on the main elements of the Parliamentary Team's activity in support of the City of London Corporation's political and parliamentary engagement. An oral update will be provided at the meeting on the Government's Brexit parliamentary programme.

This report is written with reference to the top line parliamentary objectives and deliverables of the Remembrancer's Office Departmental Business Plan 2019-20. For the Committee's reference, these are set out in the appendix.

This report covers the period since the last meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee on 2 July. Parliament rose for the Summer on 25 July and politicians will have returned to Westminster by the time of the sub-committee's meeting.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Brexit legislation (Objective 1)

1. Following Boris Johnson's election as Conservative Party leader and appointment as Prime Minister, the office has continued to monitor parliamentary developments, particularly in relation to Brexit. A briefing note prepared by the Office was circulated to Members of the Policy and Resources Committee and PRED Sub-Committee, which analysed possible scenarios in relation to a vote of no confidence, a General Election, second referendum and potential Brexit 'no deal' outcome. A Public Policy Bulletin was issued regarding prorogation ahead of a Queen's Speech, which is scheduled for 14 October.
2. The Office continues to examine Brexit legislation, both primary and secondary. The Office will, in conjunction with other departments, continue to engage with parliamentarians where legislation impacts on the interests of the City

Corporation and its stakeholders. The Remembrancer regularly updates the Financial Markets Law Committee on parliamentary aspects of Brexit.

City Corporation legislation (Objective 2)

3. Following approval by London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee on 21 March, the Private Member's Bill relating to air quality has been further developed. A parliamentary engagement plan will be triggered as soon as the Bill is introduced. Lord Tope (a vice president of London Councils) has indicated his willingness to act as Sponsor. A meeting was held with House officials on 20 August to discuss technical procedural and drafting aspects and the aim is to have a formal First Reading before the next recess which now begins on 11 September.
4. Following the decision of the Court on 25 April that the City Corporation's three wholesale markets should be relocated, work on a private bill relating to the relocation of the City Corporation's markets is being further developed. The Remembrancer wrote to relevant MPs, All-Party Parliamentary Groups, Committees, and GLA Assembly Members to draw their attention to the public consultation. The Remembrancer and Director of the Markets Consolidation Programme will shortly meet with the Chair of the Markets All-Party Parliamentary Group (who is likely to have a role in the promotion) to discuss procedural aspects of the City Corporation's plans.

Parliamentary and Government inquiries (Objective 3)

5. Working with Innovation and Growth, the Office submitted written evidence to the Treasury Select Committee's inquiry into 'Decarbonisation of the UK economy and green finance'. The submission noted the City Corporation's role in the launch of the Green Finance Institute and the need to tackle barriers to capital deployment to enable the growth of green finance.
6. Further to the submission, initial conversations have taken place with the clerk of the Treasury Select Committee in advance of an hearing on 3 September at which Rhian-Mari Thomas, CEO of the Green Finance Institute will give evidence. The Office has provided strategic support to the Institute with witness preparation before the session.
7. The Office is preparing submissions to several select committee inquiries, including into UK-China trade (International Trade Committee), puppy smuggling (Environment and Rural Affairs Committee), the UK's strategic engagement in Africa (Foreign Affairs Committee), and prosperity, peace and development in sub-Saharan Africa (Lords International Relations Committee) as well as to the Immigration White Paper consultation.

Responding to issues raised in Parliament (Objective 4)

8. The Office provided briefing notes to relevant MPs ahead of the Westminster Hall debate on the UK's trade and investment strategy. Leading the debate, Julia Lopez (Con) raised a number of key issues in relation to the financial and

professional services sector, including the prospect of EU equivalence arrangements, and the emergence of the City of London as a sustainable development hub.

Enhancing Parliamentary engagement (Objective 5)

9. The Office organised and supported a lunch in Parliament hosted by International Trade Committee member Julia Lopez which focused on global opportunities for UK financial services. The Corporation's Nick Collier led a delegation of senior industry representatives, from a range of FPS sub-sectors. Other Conservative MPs who are also members of key strategic Select Committees attended. They included – Simon Clarke (since appointed Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury), Ranil Jayawardena (since appointed Conservative Party Vice Chairman), Steve Baker (seeking re-election as Chairman of the ERG), Marcus Fysh and Lee Rowley.
10. The Office provided the briefing for, and attended, the Policy Chair's meeting with Chris Leslie, Change UK Trade and Treasury Spokesperson. A further briefing was requested by Leslie on the launch of the Green Finance Institute, which has since been provided.
11. The Office has provided the briefing for, and attended, the Policy Chair's meeting with Tom Tugendhat (Con), Chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the City Corporation's international engagement programme in connection with the Committee's ongoing inquiry into 'Global Britain'.
12. A member of the team attended the SNP's Westminster summer reception. Preparations are underway for another industry roundtable with the SNP in November, to be co-chaired by the Policy Chair and Westminster Leader Ian Blackford, focusing on global trade.
13. A member of the team, along with a colleague in Innovation and Growth, attended the launch of the APPG for Digital Skills on 17 July. The Group is chaired by Julie Elliott (Lab), and sponsors include BT, City and Guilds, Google, and The Education Technology Association. Initial conversations have been held with the Group's Secretariat to discuss the possibility of engaging with the Lord Mayor's digital skills agenda.
14. The Office co-ordinated, with colleagues from the Corporate Strategy Team, Innovation and Growth and Mansion House, a co-contribution from the Policy Chair and the Lord Mayor to a booklet on digital skills, produced by the APPG on the 4th Industrial Revolution, chaired by Alan Mak (Con).
15. The Office facilitated a meeting between the Innovation and Growth Research Team, and House of Commons Library researchers, to discuss current workstreams, upcoming research publications, and areas of mutual interest.
16. Discussions have been had with Treasury Select Committee clerks regarding the Committee's forward programme of work, following the appointment of its Chair,

Nicky Morgan, as the new DCMS Secretary of State. The Office will seek a meeting between the new Chair and the Chair of Policy and Resources when the House returns in September.

GLA and the devolved institutions (Objective 6)

17. Working with Open Spaces, the Office is preparing a submission to the GLA Environment Committee's inquiry into green spaces.
18. Caroline Russell (Green), the chair of the GLA's Environment Committee, has accepted a meeting to brief her on the City Corporation's air quality initiatives, including the air quality Bill.

Key priorities over the next month

19. The Remembrancer will attend the City Corporation Party Conference dinners, and one member of the Parliamentary Team will cover each conference to provide reports on matters of City interest, with particular focus on the fringe events.
20. Work will continue in support of the markets' relocation programme and the introduction of private bill, and on the private member's bill on air quality.
21. Following the Government reshuffle, the Office is undertaking a re-assessment of key parliamentary stakeholders, with a mind to enhancing City Corporation parliamentary engagement across a range of issues. In addition, meetings are being planned between the Policy Chair and the following MPs:
 - Wes Streeting (Lab), member of the Treasury Select Committee and Deputy Chair of the APPG on Wholesale Finance, to discuss the work of the APPG and opportunities for further engagement;
 - Chuka Umunna (Lib Dem), spokesperson for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, International Development and International Trade;
 - Yvette Cooper (Lab), Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, to discuss the UK immigration system, particularly in relation to the City Corporation's recent visa research;
 - Members of the International Trade Select Committee as part of a roundtable briefing session on the City Corporation's international engagement programme. This is being co-ordinated following the meeting between the Policy Chair and Angus MacNeil (SNP), the Committee's Chair.
22. Progress of the following relevant legislation is awaited, but given the developments on prorogation, this is now notional in the current session:
 - Financial Services (Implementation of Legislation) Bill (Commons Report Stage);

- Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill (Commons Report Stage);
- Trade Bill (Commons consideration of Lords amendments);
- Agriculture Bill (Commons Report Stage);
- Fisheries Bill (Commons Report Stage).

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Appendix: Parliamentary Team Objectives

1. Propose amendments or new clauses to Brexit-related legislation to reflect City Corporation views and report on the progress of such legislation to Members.
2. Draft and secure the passage through Parliament of City Corporation legislation, with a particular focus on securing legislation on relocating the City's markets and gaining support for the provisions included in a Private Member's Bill on air quality.
3. Make submissions to Parliamentary committee inquiries into relevant City Corporation issues in collaboration with the Economic Development Office (now Innovation and Growth) and other departments.
4. Respond to any issues or concerns raised in Parliament in either debates or tabled questions through briefing relevant MPs and Peers.
5. Enhance Parliamentary engagement through direct contact with members of both Houses on key issues and with relevant All-Party Parliamentary Groups.
6. Enhance engagement with the Greater London Assembly and the devolved institutions on matters of interest to the City through briefings and submissions to relevant inquiries.