

Committee Public Relations and Economic Development Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee	Dated: 19 February 2020
Subject: Corporate Affairs Update	Public
Report of: Bob Roberts, Director of Communications	For Information
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Summary

This report provides an update of the Corporate Affairs Team’s activities in supporting the City of London 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 Lord Mayor and Policy Chair.

The activities documented in this report focus largely on those led 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.

General Election

3. Since the General Election on 12th December 2019, the Corporate Affairs Team:
 - a. Implemented updates to City Dynamics to reflect the election result;
 - b. Worked with other departments to compose letters to incoming and outgoing MPs;
 - c. Liaised with other departments to compose letters to Cabinet Ministers, outlining the City Corporation's priorities;
 - d. Identified key Ministers/parliamentarians for the Policy Chair to engage with in the new Parliament.
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.

Domestic Political Engagement

5. The Corporate Affairs team organises engagement with key political representatives and decision-makers in government at local, regional and national levels and in September and October, this covers the annual party conference season.

Party Conferences

6. The Corporate Affairs team commenced planning of events at each party conference, exploring potential topics and think tank partners. A separate report on Party Conferences is on the agenda of this Committee.
7. 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.

National engagement

8. The Corporate Affairs Team:
 - a. Provided input to the Policy & Resources Committee dinner on 31st March, where Baroness Hale will be the keynote Speaker.
 - b. Provided support for the Policy Chair's visit to Northern Ireland.
 - c. Provided support for the LM's visit to Scotland.
 - d. Supported the briefing and speaking notes for the Policy Chair's visit to India.
 - e. Supported the briefing and speaking notes for the Lord Mayor and Policy Chair's attendance at the World Economic Forum in Davos.
 - f. Supported the briefing and speaking notes for the Policy Chair's appearance before the London Assembly EU Exit Working Group.
 - g. Wrote speaking notes for the Policy Chair at the following events:
 - i. Receptions with the President of Lithuania, Dutch Ambassador and Polish Ambassador;

- ii. City Corporation Ratepayers' Consultation;
 - iii. UK-India Economic & Financial Dialogue reception;
 - iv. European Financial Forum in Dublin;
 - v. The launch of London Councils *Guide to Development*.
- h. Provided support for Deputy Chairs and Members of the Policy and Resources Committee speaking at the following:
- i. Beijing Financial Street London Forum
 - ii. City University Socially Responsible STEM conference
 - iii. Financial Inclusion Summit;
 - iv. a Fintech roundtable
 - v. a Reform dinner
 - vi. A one-day conference with the English Cricket Board
 - vii. The *Everything in Sport: Women's Edition* conference.
 - viii. The launch of Social Mobility Commission's Employer Toolkit;
- i. Provided support to the Chamberlain for a Freedom Ceremony.
9. 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

10. The Corporate Affairs Team assists the City Corporation's overseas engagements undertaken by the Policy Chair and Lord Mayor. The Corporate Affairs Team has:
- a. Provided support for the Policy Chair's speeches for her visit to China.
11. The above links to the following Business Plan objectives:
- a. To deliver clear, consistent and confident public messaging across the City Corporation.

London – Local engagement and London promotion

12. The Corporate Affairs Team seeks to maintain and develop the City Corporation's engagement with communities, bodies and authorities across London.
- a. The Corporate Affairs team assisted in preparations for, and attended, the London Government Dinner.
 - b. The Policy Chair continues to engage with, and has held visits to, the London boroughs of: Newham, Croydon and Harrow. Several other borough visits are in the process of being arranged.
 - c. The Policy Chair hosted a roundtable with Shaun Bailey, the Conservative candidate for Mayor of London. A number of senior City Corporation officers also attended and provided an overview of the organisation. Roundtables will be held with the other mayoral candidates.
13. 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.

Think-tanks and third-party organisations

14. As part of the City Corporation's engagement with think tanks and other external organisations, the Corporate Affairs Team:

- a. Continued preparations for the Margaret Thatcher Conference with the Centre for Policy Studies;
- b. Held conversations with the following think tanks as part of ongoing strategic engagement: Centre for Policy Studies, Institute for Government, Reform, Bright Blue and Whitehall and Industry Group (WIG).

15. 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.

Sport

16. As part of the City Corporation's sport engagement programme, various events and initiatives are being organised. Further details are provided in a separate update report to Members at this meeting.

Priorities for the next quarter

17. Priorities for the Corporate Affairs Team over the next four months are:

- a. Commencing a plan of engagement with key Ministers and parliamentarians across all parties;
- b. Preparing for, and delivering, a series of roundtables ahead of the London Mayoral elections;
- c. To continue preparations for the upcoming party conference season through courting the views of potential think tank partners;
- d. Continuing with the sports engagement programme which is the subject of a separate report to this Committee, every quarter.