

Committee	Dated:
Public Relations & Economic Development Sub-Committee	14 January 2021
Subject: IG monthly update – January	Public
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Summary

The following report provides Members with highlights of the key activity undertaken by the Innovation & Growth Directorate (IG) in November to December 2020 and a forward look for 2021. The activities covered documented in this report focus largely on those lead by the IG team. Activities undertaken in partnership with other teams and departments are also included and have been appropriately termed. Each area of activity is linked back to the objectives outlined in the IG Business Plan.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the progress of IG workstreams.

Main Report

The highlights are structured around our four core objectives:

Innovative Ecosystem

1. The T&I team supported the third and final roundtable hosted by the Lord Mayor and Charlotte Crosswell of Innovate Finance, discussing how London can build a stronger offer for UK technology scale ups looking towards an IPO. The two senior-level discussions (including No.10 and HMT attendance) agreed recommendations on the domestic ecosystem for listings and what government and industry could do to support UK tech listing in the UK rather than overseas. We're delighted that following the roundtables, the Chancellor announced the establishment of a taskforce that will propose reforms to the UK listings regime.
2. [Innovation Ambassadors](#), the innovation team's legal innovation pilot, launched with 55 participants from 34 organisations across the UK. The Policy Chair opened an intensive month when participants considered the future of legal services delivery and opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

3. With a year to go until COP26 takes place in Glasgow, the City of London Corporation and Green Finance Institute (GFI), supported by the World Economic Forum, hosted the Green Horizon Summit (GHS) in November 2020. It brought together CEOs, policymakers and governments to focus on the practical solutions and financial innovation necessary to create a resilient and sustainable future for the global economy. A full list of speakers, key announcements and session recordings can be found on the GHS website [here](#). The event generated very high levels of engagement across the three days. Roughly 335,000 livestream views were registered from 110 countries, along with over one million views of GHS-related content on social media. Here is a summary [video of the event](#).

World Class Business Environment

4. The Policy Chair hosted a roundtable with Ivan Rogers, the former UK Permanent Representative to the EU and David Cameron's Advisor on Europe and Global Issues. This was an excellent opportunity for selected industry participants to hear Ivan's thoughts on the on-going EU-UK negotiations. Participants also discussed how the financial sector can help support the economic recovery from COVID-19.
5. [Ground-breaking research on socio-economic background](#) in financial services was launched this week. It found that nine in ten senior roles are held by people from higher socio-economic backgrounds. There were 584 people who attended the launch with Ministers John Glen and Nadhim Zahawi. City of London Corporation partnered with the Bridge Group to deliver the research with eight major employers in financial services. Please share the report with your contacts.
6. The 8th issue of [London RMB Business Quarterly Report](#) was launched in November. The latest data shows that Cross-border RMB transactions between China and the UK surged to RMB633.6 billion between March to July 2020, up 169% year-on-year.

Global Recognition of UK's FPS Offer

7. The Lord Mayor conducted a virtual visit to India earlier this week. The visit harnessed the momentum of the recent UK-India EFD and followed up on key themes outlined by the UK and Indian Financial Ministers' joint declaration. In particular, the visit focused on FinTech and Sustainable Finance. The visit also supported gender diversity in the financial services sector. There were bilateral meetings with GIFT City, India's Smart City, and Edelweiss. The Lord Mayor launched the cohort for this year's UK-India FinTech Awards.
8. Research & Intelligence have recently published a [case study](#) on The Global City featuring an interview with the first company to IPO on AIM since the Covid-19 Crisis. The case study focuses on why the company is in London and the significance of the IPO. Given the opportunity to speak to the first company to list on AIM in a more digitised IPO process, we have also

siphoned some of the material out of the interview separately to feed into our ongoing capital markets research and upcoming report for Q1 2021.

Partnerships & Engagement

9. The Lord Mayor along with several UK financial institutions were invited by the Shenzhen Financial Regulatory Bureau to join a virtual exchange dialogue on social impact finance. During the dialogue six case studies were presented by Shenzhen and UK participants all reflecting on the best practices of their respective social impact finance projects. These social impact projects explored medical care financing, wealth management, and using AI and technology for financing. The dialogue also helped to showcase the UK and City of London leading role in setting trends for social impact finance and investing.
10. The Innovation team successfully bid for funding from BEIS to deliver the ESG Leaders Forum. Initially this will be rolled out in China, with the help of the T&I team. If successful, it may be replicated in other markets to help drive ESG investment through the UK investment ecosystem. The project will be funded through the BEIS PACT (Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions) Fund. The project falls under the objectives of the IG business plan, corresponding to outcome 1: Increase asset allocations to green finance, impact and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) finance.

Priorities on the Business Agenda – early 2021

11. The first quarter in 2021 will be a critical start to the UK's repositioning. It will be the first quarter of a new UK-EU relationship; the first with a new US administration; the beginning of vaccine rollout as we look to a post-pandemic future. Priorities in early 2021 will include:

12. Globally successful UK:

- Competitiveness Strategy: Members have asked for a Competitiveness Strategy, bringing together all the Corporation's work on competitiveness. From the Fraser Report, the core recommendation is for clarity of purpose.
- At the heart of CPR and LM's conversations with FPS leaders will be to ask for their advice. How do we support the world-class business ecosystem already here? How can we grow it in the future?

13. Vibrant and Thriving Square Mile:

- Return to the Square Mile: The Square Mile has taken a major hit. Workers have not been able to return to offices, leaving shops, hospitality and cultural venues empty. So, a major area of focus will be on the return to the Square Mile at the right time. Discussions of a possible campaign to encourage the return are underway across the Corporation (lead by MH and Comms).
- At the right moment, LM and CPR will want to ask businesses about their views on what they think the campaign should look like. And then galvanise their support for delivering it.

- Recovery Task Force for a 'vibrant and thriving' Square Mile: The pandemic has temporarily emptied the Square Mile but how will it reshape it? Firms will want to get their people together to coach, collaborate, create, and nurture a community. Workers want the buzz of working closely with others, in a place with a vibrant offer. But the workplace, and the Square Mile, will look and feel different.
- As well as engaging FPS leaders (cf Competitiveness Strategy), our principals will need to engage key leaders in property and development; culture; retail; and hospitality. What should our Vibrant Offer look like, to complement our world-class business eco-system?

14. Other key issues for early 2021 include:

- a. Benchmarking Study – showcasing London's strengths.
- b. UK as *the* place for Fintech via the Kalifa Review.
- c. Reinforcing the UK's global role via climate finance: COP26 (via Singapore Davos and G7/G20).
- d. Levelling up: UK partnerships focusing on skills, fintech, place-based investment, greentech.
- e. Talent: Social mobility taskforce and immigration pilots.
- f. Reshaping UK regulatory framework for high standards and competitiveness.
- g. Rebuilding the EU-UK relationship, and building US-UK relationships.
- h. Trade and Investment themes such as promoting the UK's great offer on asset management.

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