

<b>Committee(s):</b> Public Relations Sub-Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 24/01/2022
<b>Subject:</b> Corporate Affairs Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	N
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N/A
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	N/A
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	N/A
<b>Report of:</b> Bob Roberts, Executive Director of Communications	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Tom Regan, Corporate Affairs Officer	

## Summary

The below report provides a summary of the work of The Corporate Affairs Team, since the last meeting of the Public Relations Sub Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has again dominated. Alongside the delivery of important public health messages, the team have supported attempts to get more financial support for businesses in the Square Mile and reiterate the fundamental strengths of financial and professional services.

Elsewhere, there has been focus on ensuring we deliver first-class public services. We have argued for more support for Afghan citizens resettling in the UK, highlighted the importance of the Waterloo and City line and advocated for fraud and online scams to be included in the Online Safety Bill.

Our usual work of promoting the competitiveness of the City, stressing the importance of our Climate Action Strategy, and engaging to encourage sporting activity and events, continues.

Details of these activities are included in this report.

## Recommendation(s)

- To note the report

## Main Report

### Recovery & COVID-19 Guidance

To support the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery of the Square Mile, The Corporate Affairs Team have:

1. Worked in coordination with City Corporation delivery departments to communicate public health messaging to internal and external audiences, following the rise in the UK COVID-19 threat level and the spread of the Omicron variant.
2. Drafted correspondence on behalf of the Policy Chair to the Chancellor to advocate for greater financial support for businesses within the Square Mile, specifically requesting HM Treasury to conduct a review of the way future business grants are provided, to ensure the City receives a more proportionate amount relative to the number of businesses operating within the Square Mile.
3. Provided further briefings to the Policy Chair and Lord Mayor for meetings with senior Government business advisors, where the COVID-19 recovery was discussed.
4. Supported the Policy Chair for her engagements at COVID-19 related Pan-London engagements, including the London COVID Business Forum, and London Councils executive meetings
5. Supported the Policy Chair through interventions such as the Court Policy Statement and the 'London Moving East' speech to amplify key messaging on the COVID-19 recovery, and the broader role of the Financial and Professional Sector in supporting this recovery

There are a series of strategically important engagements relating to recovery and COVID-19 to maintain and support in advance of the next meeting of the Public Relations Sub-Committee. The Corporate Affairs Team will:

6. Continue to amplify relevant public health messaging and monitor and react to future changes to COVID-19 guidance. Increase political engagement if required, to ensure businesses in the Square Mile, which may struggle, are given the necessary financial support from government.

### **Innovative & strong public services**

To continue to advocate for and amplify the world leading public service provision in the Square Mile, The Corporate Affairs Team have:

7. Worked to help deliver urgent support to Afghanistan families and children arriving in the Square Mile. In partnership with Children & Community Services provided political engagement with Home Office and Pan-London bodies to address a number of issues relating to accommodation, education and transport. Corresponded with the relevant Minister of State to address various issues including the requirement for long term accommodation.
8. Raised the Afghanistan situation with the Member of Parliament for the Cities of London and Westminster, who then spoke of the work of the City Corporation in the House of Commons. She referenced our provision of English lessons and our work to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine to this community. In response to these remarks, the Minister of State also praised the work of the City Corporation.
9. Supported the Policy Chair in advocating for a long-term funding settlement for Transport for London services. Used important interventions, such as the 2021

London Conference to highlight the need to address this issue. Continued to correspond with TfL and the Deputy Mayor for Transport our priorities regarding the operational viability of the Waterloo and City Line.

10. Successfully advocated on behalf of the Police Authority Board Chair for recommendations pertaining to the Online Safety Bill Joint Scrutiny Report, to ensure fraud and online scams were included in the scope of the report. These changes would create a more secure regulatory environment and allow the City of London Police to take a more effective approach to fraud prevention.
11. Supported the Open Spaces department in delivering political engagement to Members of Parliament on issues pertaining to Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest.
12. Delivered political engagement to support the contribution of the City Corporation to London's cultural offer and the wider 'Quality of Life' industry in the Square Mile. This included engagements with the Deputy Mayor for Culture and supporting speaking remarks at cultural events such as the Winter Borealis at Guildhall.
13. Worked with the Markets and Major Projects teams to ensure the City Corporation was engaging with relevant stakeholders regarding the Markets co-location project.

There are a series of priorities regarding our support for the provision of public services in advance of the next meeting of the Public Relations Sub-Committee. The Corporate Affairs Team will:

14. Work with Government and Pan-London stakeholders, including with the newly appointed Deputy Mayor for Transport to address concerns relating to the TfL funding settlement, ahead of the February deadline, as well as ensuring the Waterloo and City line returns to more frequent operational levels.
15. Continue to work with the Police Authority Board to advocate on behalf of the City of London Police, as national lead force for Economic Crime, as well as for changes to the Online Safety Bill, to ensure legislation is in place to support the City of London Police to tackle fraud.

## **Competitiveness**

To ensure London and the UK maintain a globally competitive Financial & Professional Service Sector, The Corporate Affairs Team have:

16. Provided political support to the Lord Mayor for the Lord Mayor's Banquet, and all associated civil events where there were relevant political engagements taking place
17. Advocated our strategic priorities for the Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review. Successfully ensured key asks pertaining to the establishment of an industry body for Fintech and a reduction to the Banking Surcharge were delivered within the Budget.
18. Increased our advocacy work to ensure Financial and Professional Services are factored into future UK trade policy. To achieve this, supported the Policy Chair in her engagements with the new Trade Minister and facilitated the annual CPS Margaret Thatcher Conference at the Guildhall where the Policy Chair made speaking remarks on trade policy.

19. Supported the Policy Chair through speaking remarks advocating for a more cooperative relationship between the UK and EU on the issue of Financial and Professional Services regulation. These included remarks at the City Corporations Brussels Reception as well as at events through the Cumberland Lodge conference, the AGEFI and Trade Tech Europe.
20. Maintained and expanded our political engagement with HM Opposition and other parliamentary stakeholders to advocate for a globally competitive Square Mile. Drafted correspondence on behalf of the Policy Chair to newly appointed members of the Shadow Frontbench. Attended Scottish National Party annual conference and supported the Policy Chair on a virtual panel event focused on the future of Financial Services in Scotland.
21. Continued to work closely with Think Tanks to support the wider competitiveness agenda, these include New Financial, The Whitehall & Industry Group, and the Centre for European Reform.

To support Competitiveness in advance of the next meeting of the Public Relations Sub-Committee, The Corporate Affairs Team will:

22. Work in coordination with Innovation and Growth, and the new Competitiveness Board, to continue to amplify the work of the City of London Corporation's Competitiveness Strategy through our programme of corporate communications.

### **Levelling Up and London**

To work coherently with the Government to deliver upon the 'Levelling Up' agenda, and to continue to promote the fundamental strengths of London to the UK as a whole, The Corporate Affairs Team have:

23. Supported the Policy Chair in engagements with the 'Levelling Up Taskforce', to articulate the position of the City of London Corporation. Principally, that Financial and Professional Services must form part of the 'levelling up' agenda, that levelling up must focus on people and skills, and London must not be 'levelled down' as a result of this process. As part of the City Corporations response to the Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review, noting the lack of relative support distributed to areas within London.
24. Briefed the Policy Chair for meetings with the Business and Industry Minister, as part of the Socio-Economic Diversity Taskforce, which is designed to support a people and skills led approach to 'levelling up'.
25. Worked with various London based think-tanks and organisations, such as Centre for London, and in addition supported the annual London Conference. Continued to work in partnership with the GLA, London Councils and London & Partners to promote the fundamental strengths of the capital. Engaged with the Minister for London and the Member of Parliament for the Two Cities on our current priorities for the City of London, and London more broadly.
26. Supported the launch of a Fabian Society 'Commission on Poverty and Regional Inequality' which is aimed at highlighting 'intra-regional' levels of poverty and deprivation, in the context of 'levelling up'. In addition, attended events with the think-tank Onward, who are working across the broader 'levelling up' agenda.

To continue our engagements on the ‘Levelling Up’ agenda in advance of the next meeting of the Public Relations Sub-Committee, The Corporate Affairs team will:

27. Engage with relevant political stakeholders, think tanks and industry groups to advocate the City Corporations position on this issue, and provide a comprehensive response to the ‘Levelling Up White Paper’ which is scheduled to be released in 2022

## **Sport Engagement**

To provide national and international sport engagement to promote the City of London Corporation, the Sport Engagement Manager has:

28. Hosted an event at Guildhall to launch joint research commissioned alongside UK Sport on the trade and soft power benefits of hosting major sport events in the UK. The event was well attended and involved speakers from the business and sports sector, as well as government. The Sports Minister gave a keynote speech on the importance of this work and this broader area aligns with our more general work on trade and competitiveness.
29. Hosted the London Sport Awards in Guildhall involving over 300 stakeholders from the grassroots sport community in London. The City Corporation was designated the headline sponsor of the awards ensuring good promotional coverage. The awards were successful, and the Sport Engagement Manager is in discussions with London Sport on future collaboration for next year’s event.
30. Owing to Covid-19 constraints the reception to celebrate the UK’s successful bid to host the International Working Group of Women and Sport has been postponed until spring. In addition, it is envisaged that the lunch to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of UK Sport will also be moved to a new date in March. Planning for other events continues to move forward, including a conference to bring together senior leaders from the sport and business worlds - Global Sports Agora – which is due to take place at the end of April.

In advance of the next meeting of the Public Relations Sub-Committee. The Sport Engagement Manager will:

31. Maximise the City Corporation’s engagement across relevant sporting competitions, such as the Women’s Euro Football Championships and the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Discuss the City Corporation’s involvement in these events with partners.
32. Provide international relations support for high profile bids to host competitions such as the FIFA World Cup in 2030.
33. Continue to assess how the City Corporation delivers sport and physical activity across the Square Mile and our open spaces.

## **Climate Action**

To deliver a sustainable and net zero City, which promotes ‘Green Finance’, The Corporate Affairs Team have:

34. Worked in coordination with the COP26 delivery team to amplify our key messages from COP26 to relevant political stakeholders and include within the speaking remarks of Policy Chair led interventions.
35. Established a Pan-London briefing document which sets out the key programme priorities of the City Corporation, GLA and London Councils regarding 'Green Finance'. In addition, worked with these institutions to support the delivery of events and conferences to promote climate action in London. This has included the GLA and C40 Pre-COP26 event, and the 2021 London Councils Climate Conference.
36. Support the Policy Chair and Deputy Policy Chair in their engagements with the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission, which is looking at providing UK Cities with sustainable investment opportunities to support the transition to net zero

There are a series of strategically important engagements to deliver climate action related work in advance of the next meeting of the Public Relations Sub-Committee. The Corporate Affairs Team will:

37. Work to ensure the City Corporation is well placed to amplify the successes of the Green Horizon Summit at COP26 and reflect upon the decisions reached at COP26 in the Corporations political engagement programme over the duration of the UK's COP presidency.
38. Continue to facilitate engagements for the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission, and work at a Pan-London level to support the delivery of the City of London Corporations Climate Action Plan.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

### **Strategic implications**

We engage with political stakeholders, organise events associated with the party-political conferences and work with the thinktanks and other third-party organisations to produce events and associated policy reports. This provides an opportunity for the City Corporation to engage with key audiences on important global, national and local government issues and to demonstrate the Corporation's involvement in relevant debates. Sponsorship and political engagement would also help deliver outcomes 2 – 10 of the 2018-23 Corporate Plan.

### **Financial implications**

The Corporate Affairs Team has an established budget for all 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**

None

### **Legal implications**

None

### **Risk implications**

None

Equalities implications

None

Climate implications

None

Security implications

None

## **Conclusion**

39. Members are asked to note the ongoing work of the Corporate Affairs Team

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