

Committee(s): Communications & Corporate Affairs Sub Committee	Dated: 31/10/2022
Subject: Corporate Affairs Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Outcomes 2 – 11
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Bob Roberts, Deputy Town Clerk & Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs	For Discussion
Report author: Miki Arenson, Corporate Affairs Officer	

Summary

The below report outlines the activities of the Corporate Affairs Team since the last meeting of the Communications & Corporate Affairs Sub Committee on 07 June 2022. It highlights major activities undertaken to support the team's priorities.

The main priorities of the Corporate Affairs team since the last Communications & Corporate Affairs Sub Committee can be summarised as:

- Monitoring the political landscape and engaging in reactive outreach in response to governmental changes.
- Maintaining political relationship with pan-London political stakeholders, including the GLA, councillors from across London and London Councils.
- Promoting the competitiveness agenda to champion the UK financial and professional services sector.
- Continuing to advocate for City Corporation's climate action and sustainable finance agenda.
- Supporting the Policy Chairman's Priorities, including Destination City.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Political Engagement

1. The Corporate Affairs Team continues to lead on Political engagement with front-bench politicians.

2. In the four months this report covers, a number of political shifts have occurred, including the resignation of the then Chancellor and a number of senior cabinet members, followed by the former Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, resigning which therefore triggered a Conservative leadership election. The election of a new Prime Minister then followed, along with a substantial governmental reshuffle. The Corporate Affairs Team led on monitoring the developments closely and continues to keep track of the political landscape to ensure that the City Corporation is engaging with the appropriate political figures. Key activity in this area has included:
 - a) Updating Communication & Corporate Affairs Sub Committee Members on the leadership election via Public Policy Bulletins.
 - b) Monitoring hustings events and assessing the potential outcomes and implications for the City of London Corporation
 - c) Writing to leadership candidates on behalf of the Lord Mayor and Policy Chairman to outline the priorities of the City of London Corporation.
 - d) Writing to newly elected Cabinet members with relevant portfolios to the City of London Corporation.
 - e) Working closely with the Remembrancer's Team to ensure that Public Policy Bulletins were circulated with the updated political landscape.

3. The Corporate Affairs Team has also sought to engage with national politicians across the spectrum of political parties. This has included:
 - a) Writing letters on behalf of the Policy Chairman to Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and SNP MPs.
 - b) Supporting the Policy Chairman by providing briefing for a fireside chat with Shadow Chancellor, Rachel Reeves MP. At the event, Reeves announced Labour's support for the Secondary Competitiveness Objective in the Financial Services and Markets Bill, an issue the City of London Corporation has long been campaigning for.
 - c) Arranging for the City Corporation to host the annual dinner of the think tank Onward, where the speaker was the then Chancellor of the Exchequer. This event allowed members the opportunity to engage with influential Conservative MPs and policymakers.
 - d) Delivered multiple events at Conservative, Labour and SNP party conference (a separate full report on Party Conference engagement is coming forward to CCA).

London Engagement

4. The Corporate Affairs Team continues to engage closely with London government, ensuring that the City Corporation's messaging remains understood. The Team has:
 - a) Drafted and sent a letter to the Minister for London, outlining the City Corporation's key priorities for the Policy Chairman.
 - b) Engaged closely with Nickie Aiken MP on regular calls and also supported Ms Aiken's visit to the Guildhall Art Gallery. Planned

engagement with the Policy Chairman and Ms Aiken has been scheduled.

- c) Arranged the messaging for the Policy Chairman for a meeting with the Deputy Mayor of London for Transport as well as a meeting with the Leader of Westminster City Council.
- d) Briefed the Chairman of Planning and Transport Committee for engagement with the Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy.
- e) Ensured timely briefing support to the Policy Chairman for external meetings with London Councils, Central London Forward, among others.
- f) Provided political engagement advice for the Markets Board during the site visit to Barking and Dagenham.
- g) Established and maintained officer contact with political advisors for the City of Westminster, Lambeth and Islington, with further such engagements planned.
- h) Continued to work closely with London Councils officers, particularly around the allocation for the City from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- i) Worked with the Centre for London on the upcoming London Conference, ensuring that City Corporation's messaging is well understood (a separate report on Think Tank engagement is being brought forward to CCA).
- j) Worked with Centre for London on their Levelling Up report and ensuring that Central London Forward takes account of the City Corporation's messaging and asks.

Promoting competitiveness

- 5. To ensure London and the UK maintain a globally competitive Financial and Professional Service sector, the Corporate Affairs Team have:
 - a) Worked with Innovation and Growth and the Remembrancer's office to engage with politicians on the *State of the sector: annual review of UK financial services 2022*.
 - b) Written speeches for the Policy Chairman including a Court address updating Members on progress made against his agenda after one-hundred days. This included measures to make the City more competitive for financial and professional services and the Square Mile as a more attractive place to live, work, and visit.
 - c) Attended and provided briefing for the Policy Chairman for his meeting with the then 10 Downing Street Business Adviser.

Climate action strategy, sustainability and green finance

- 6. The City Corporation has developed an evidence-based Climate Action Strategy for the City Corporation and the Square Mile. We have committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions in our own operations by 2027 and 2040 for all our investments and supply chain.

7. This mission to reach net zero in the Square Mile is aligned with the City Corporation's wider commitment for London and the UK to become a global centre for green finance and a world class business environment. The work the Corporate Affairs Team has been doing to promote this has included:
 - a) Providing support to the Finance for Impact Summit, including writing speeches and providing support to Innovation and Growth on ministerial engagement.
 - b) Writing speeches for the Policy Chairman for events such as the Global Ethical Finance Summit and the Skills for a Sustainable Skyline Taskforce launch. All of these events provided opportunities for political engagement, with Ivan McKee MSP and Michael Matheson MSP attending the Global Ethical Finance Summit, and Minister for London Paul Scully MP speaking at the Skills for a Sustainable Skyline Taskforce launch.
 - c) Sending letters to DEFRA Ministers on behalf of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee on the discharge of sewage into waterways.
 - d) Supporting the City of London Corporations Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) priorities across all political engagement.
8. The Corporate Affairs Team will continue to work with officers across the organisation to ensure we engage with key political stakeholders in the run up to COP27 and beyond.

Destination City

9. Since the last Corporate Affairs Update, the Policy Chairman has launched the flagship 'Destination City' programme, to invest in culture to drive footfall in the City. The Corporate Affairs Team has been working to support this programme, along with colleagues from across the organisation, by: writing speeches to announce the programme to the Court of Common Council and to announce the launch of the Golden Key event on the 15th of October.

Other events

The Corporate Affairs Team also organised events with a range of think tanks and other external partners, such as:

10. The Franco-British Council Young Leaders' Dinner which took place at Guildhall, with high level political and diplomatic representatives from both the UK and France.
11. An event with a keynote address from the Chief Economic Adviser to HM Treasury in conjunction with the Strand Group.

Future engagement

12. The Corporate Affairs Team will continue to review the spectrum of work it conducts throughout the year. This includes:

- a. Reviewing this year's party conference activity and commencing scoping for next year.
 - b. Continuing to engage with the new Government and Ministers in areas of relevance to the City Corporation and evaluate how we engage with shadow and opposition MPs.
13. The Corporate Affairs Team is in the process of organising a number of impactful events and engagements. These include:
- a. The annual Margaret Thatcher Conference on Growth, with the Centre for Policy Studies.
 - b. The Strand Group's event in Edinburgh for the lecture to be given by former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, Lord Macpherson, to be introduced by the Vice Chair of Policy and Resources.
 - c. Supporting an event with 3Ci, along with colleagues from across the organisation.
 - d. Arranging the International Business and Diplomatic Exchange Chairman's Breakfast taking place at Guildhall on the topic of investing in an uncertain world.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

1. 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 City 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

2. *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

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

Miki Arenson

Corporate Affairs Officer, Town Clerks Department

E: miki.arenson@cityoflondon.gov.uk