

Committee(s): Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee	Dated: 12/12/2022
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?	No
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 and Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs	For Discussion
Report author: Sarah Bridgman, Senior Corporate Affairs Officer	

Summary

The below report outlines the activities of the Corporate Affairs Team since the last meeting of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee on 31st October 2022. It highlights major activities undertaken to support the team's priorities.

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

- Maintaining responsibility for the City Corporation's work with frontbench politicians, including monitoring changes to the Government, further developing engagement with the Opposition and advising on engagement
- Continuing the positive relationships with pan-London political stakeholders and briefing them on the work of the City Corporation
- Working with external partners to deliver successful events of interest to the City Corporation
- Progressing the review of sport engagement.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Political Engagement

1. Since the last Corporate Affairs Update to the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee, the new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak formed a new Government. Throughout this process and the preceding leadership election, the Corporate Affairs Team has been leading the work to monitor the political landscape. This has included:
 - a. Monitoring the leadership election processes and any subsequent changes to the Government, and updating Members and Officers via public policy bulletins
 - b. Writing to newly appointed Ministers in portfolios of relevance to the City Corporation to outline the organisation's priorities in these areas
 - c. Analysing the positions of the new Government, including those announced in the Autumn Statement, and working with colleagues from across the organisation to determine what these will mean for the City Corporation.

2. Given the current political and economic climate, the Team has also been working to further increase engagement with Labour politicians. In the last month this has included:
 - a. Supporting the Policy Chairman with his bilateral meeting with the Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade, Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
 - b. Working with the Remembrancer's Office to provide briefings for the freedom ceremony and lunch for the Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Jonathan Reynolds MP.
 - c. Engaging at officer level to progress meetings in early 2023 with other key Shadow Cabinet members.

3. The Corporate Affairs Team continues to provide advice to teams across the organisation on the optimum ways to engage with Government and Opposition politicians. Since the last meeting of the Sub Committee, this has included:
 - a. Providing political briefing ahead of the Lord Mayor's Banquet and the State Banquet for the President of South Africa
 - b. Supporting colleagues in Innovation and Growth with letters to political stakeholders on cross border remote working and the UK's green taxonomy.

Pan-London Engagement

4. The Corporate Affairs Team continues to lead on the City Corporation's relationships with pan-London stakeholders. The work since the last Sub Committee meeting has primarily involved maintaining positive relationships across London government as well as providing briefings on the work and priorities of the City Corporation. This has included:

- a. Working in collaboration with the Office of the Town Clerk and the Media Team on the planning for the communication of the appointment of the new Town Clerk
- b. Sponsoring the London Conference organised by the Centre for London and attending, in order to engage with key stakeholders from across the capital and gather key insights on policy initiatives
- c. Collaborating with colleagues in the Media Team and the Remembrancer's Office on the communications plan for the markets co-location programme. The Team ensured that relations with key political stakeholders were managed, as well as providing strategic communications advice
- d. Supporting the Centre for London's report on London and Levelling Up, and ensuring that City Corporation messaging on this subject could form part of the project
- e. Providing input and analysis to Central London Forward's Central Activities Zone Future Actions Strategy, ensuring that the economic importance of the City of London is acknowledged.

Events with External Partners

5. The work of the Corporate Affairs Team includes arranging partnerships with external organisations such as think tanks, for events and projects that are relevant to our priorities as an organisation. Since the last meeting of the Sub Committee, these projects have included:
 - a. Sponsoring a lecture in Edinburgh organised by King's College London's Strand Group, given by Lord Macpherson, the former Permanent Secretary to HM Treasury. The lecture was entitled "Treasury Orthodoxy: Fact or Fiction?" and offered a timely overview of the role of the Treasury in shaping the UK's economic policy. One of the Vice Chairs of Policy and Resources introduced the event on behalf of the Policy Chairman. The event provided a useful opportunity to outline City Corporation work with the financial services sector around the UK, as well as to engage with Scottish policymakers and academics.
 - b. Hosting the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) Margaret Thatcher Conference on Growth. The Policy Chairman gave opening remarks to the conference and took part in a panel session on "Why Choose Britain?" alongside the Economic Secretary to HM Treasury. Other speakers at the conference included the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove MP and Chairman of the Conservative Party, Nadhim Zahawi MP. The conference was well attended with a significant number of MPs attending the dinner.

Sport Engagement

6. Work continues on the strategic review of sport provision in the Square Mile by the Sport Engagement Manager, with external consultants appointed to undertake stakeholder engagement and gain insight into views on the direction of sport for the City of London. Residents, workers and visitors will all be

consulted via online focus groups and a survey to understand more about what sport services and facilities they would like the City Corporation to prioritise in the future. In addition, a Member Sounding Board has been set up to oversee the progress of the strategic review and provide direction on the development of a new sport and leisure strategy for the Square Mile.

7. It is anticipated that the new strategy will consist of three areas of focus: sport facilities, sport events and sport engagement, with each area having clear deliverable and measurable targets to work towards. Once the strategy has been drafted early next year, a fuller update will be provided to Members of this Sub Committee on the proposed approach being taken on sport.
8. Alongside this, there is also a plan to develop a sport strategy for the City Corporation's open spaces outside the Square Mile, which is expected to be launched concurrently with the Square Mile Sport Strategy next summer.

Future engagement

9. The Corporate Affairs Team continues to plan for future engagement with political stakeholders. Amongst other things, work is underway to:
 - a. Map plans for political engagement against the Policy Chairman's priorities and the annual calendar of City Corporation events, in conjunction with other teams across the organisation
 - b. Organise a roundtable for a senior member of the Shadow Cabinet, convening relevant representatives to brief them on the City Corporation's priorities
 - c. Plan for the 2023 Party Conferences, to be held in Bournemouth, Manchester and Liverpool, and to visit prospective venues for City Corporation events
 - d. Further develop engagement with Opposition politicians
 - e. Send an officer to the Labour Party Business Conference.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

10. 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

11. 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

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

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