

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Committee(s):</b><br>Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee                                     | <b>Dated:</b><br>14 February 2023 |
| <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>      | Outcomes 2 – 11                   |
| <b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>                                       | <b>No</b>                         |
| <b>If so, how much?</b>  | <b>N/A</b>                        |
| <b>What is the source of Funding?</b>  | <b>N/A</b>                        |
| <b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>                                  | <b>N/A</b>                        |
| <b>Report of:</b> Bob Roberts, Deputy Town Clerk and Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs | <b>For Discussion</b>             |
| <b>Report author:</b> Kristy Sandino, Head of Corporate Affairs  |                                   |

### 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 12 December 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
- Creating a plan for political engagement for the Policy Chairman, alongside colleagues in Remembrancers.
- Continuing relationships with pan-London political stakeholders and briefing them on the work of 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 Corporate Affairs Team has been working to continue engagement with His Majesty's Government. This has included:
  - a. Writing to the Economic Secretary to the Treasury on behalf of the Lord Mayor and the Policy Chairman regarding the City Corporation's view on a Future Wealth Fund.
  - b. Writing to the Economic Secretary to the Treasury on behalf of the Policy Chair to call for the implementation of a robust and science-based Green Taxonomy.
  - c. Providing briefings to the Chair of Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee for two interactions with Andrew Griffith MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury.
  - d. Working with Innovation and Growth to submit a written representation to the Spring Budget on behalf of the City of London Corporation.
  
2. Given the current political climate, the Corporate Affairs Team has also been working to further increase engagement with Labour politicians. This has included:
  - a. Supporting Innovation and Growth by providing political briefing ahead of the World Economic Forum.
  - b. Writing a letter from the Lord Mayor and Policy Chairman to Labour Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves on Labour's 'Start-up, Scale-up' report.
  - c. Providing briefing and officer attendance in support of the Lord Mayor's attendance at the Labour International Trade Reception.
  - d. A Corporate Affairs team member attending the London Labour Business Conference to collect insight and hear from Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP (Leader of the Labour Party); Lisa Nandy MP (Shadow Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) and Rt Hon Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London), amongst others.
  - e. Engaging at an officer level with Labour officers to progress conversations about possible collaboration.

### **Pan-London Engagement**

3. The Corporate Affairs Team continues to lead on the City Corporation's pan London political and related stakeholder relations. Since the previous Sub Committee, this work has centred around maintaining and developing relations across a wide array of stakeholders, as well as growing new relationships which will be of assistance to the City Corporation. This work included:
  - a. Working with Mansion House, the Media Team and Remembrancer colleagues to advise and deliver the 2023 London Government Dinner.
  - b. Attending and representing the City Corporation at the Labour Party's London Conference to gather insights and political networking.

- c. Continuing to work with Environment colleagues, Transport for London and the Deputy Mayor of London, Seb Dance, to address the tube and vibration issues having an impact on some Barbican residents.
- d. Drafting briefings and advising on engagement for the Policy Chairman, Deputy Policy Chairman and Vice Chairs on meetings and engagements with the City MP, Nickie Aiken.
- e. Advising colleagues on any political issues around the London Wall West and Markets programmes.
- f. Providing support and advice to the Policy Chairman on London Councils policy related meetings and events.
- g. Building relations with the Mayor of London's advisors, as well as London Councils' political advisors to ensure an understanding of City Corporation messaging and views on external policy development.
- h. Reviewing and agreeing Central London Forward's submission to the Spring Budget.

### **Engagement with the devolved nations and regions**

- 4. In the last Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee, it was requested that the Corporate Affairs Team include our engagement with regions. The City Corporation engagement with the SNP was also raised. Since then, the Corporate Affairs Team has:
  - a. Provided a political briefing for the Lord Mayor and Policy Chairman's visit to Scotland for Burns Night, where they spoke to The First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon.

### **Engagement with External Partners**

- 5. The Corporate Affairs Team continues to work with think tanks and other third party influencers, including arranging partnerships with external organisations such as think tanks, for events and projects that are relevant to our priorities as an organisation. This work included:
  - b. The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) invited the City Corporation to join its delegation to Ukraine focused on strengthening trade ties and helping to drive Ukraine's economic recovery. The delegation spent time in Kyiv and Lviv to meet with Ukrainian ministers, senior officials, city leaders, Chambers of Commerce and local businesses. Sheriff of the City of London Andrew Marsden was asked to represent us as a civic representative. Tom Sleigh CC also volunteered to join the LCCI delegation.
  - c. Direct conversations on potential engagement for 2023/2024 with the below organisations:
    - IPPR
    - Resolution Foundation
    - The Fabian Society
    - New Statesman
    - Progressive Britain

- Social Market Foundation
- Centre for Policy Studies
- FT's Financial Literacy and Inclusion Campaign
- New Financial
- Chatham House
- Centre for London
- Bright Blue
- Onward

d. Attendance at roundtables and events on subject matters of interest to the City Corporation and briefing to colleagues on key points.

## **Sport Engagement**

6. Progress is being made on the development of a new sport strategy for the Square Mile, with the initial programme of stakeholder engagement now complete. In addition, the Sport Sounding Board set up by the Sport Member Lead has now met three times over the last few months to consider priority areas that should be incorporated into the new strategy. The Sounding Board has also visited sport facilities in neighbouring boroughs and will tour sites of interest in the Square Mile prior to the strategy being finalised
7. The sport strategy is expected to be drafted ready for consideration by this Sub Committee at its next meeting in April. Subject to Members endorsement and further committee approvals, it is hoped that the document will be launched over the summer. A key issue that will need to be resolved once the strategy has been agreed is how it will be managed and resourced going forward.
8. In addition to working on the new sport strategy, the Sport Engagement Manager has been helping to deliver a number of upcoming sport engagement events. These include the UK Sport International Relations Seminar (20<sup>th</sup> March), the London Sport Awards (23<sup>rd</sup> March), and the Major League Baseball London Series Celebration (23<sup>rd</sup> June). Further updates on these events and the wider sport engagement programme will be provided to Members at the next meeting of this Sub Committee.

## **Future engagement**

9. The Corporate Affairs Team continues to plan for future engagement with political stakeholders. Priorities for the Corporate Affairs Team over the next four months are:
  - e. Continuing to deliver a plan of engagement for the Policy Chair and Lord Mayor with key Ministers, political spokespeople, devolved and regional government leaders across all parties.
  - f. Supporting the Policy Chair in engagement with London Government - Mayor and borough leaders - focussing on ensuring London is speaking with one voice.

- g. Continue preparations for 2023 Party Conference season and consider other opportunities for physical events when possible, with a particular focus on ensuring equitable engagement across political parties.
- h. Support the Corporation with political intelligence and relationship building on areas of key importance across the political parties, such as competitiveness, policing and sustainable finance.

## **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.

### **Kristy Sandino**

Head of Corporate Affairs, Town Clerks Department

T: 07493760844

E: [kristy.sandino@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:kristy.sandino@cityoflondon.gov.uk)