

<b>Committee(s):</b> Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 19 April 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>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N/A</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> Philip Saunders, Acting Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Kristy Sandino, Assistant Director, 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 14 February. 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
- Continuing engagement with external partners, devolved nations and regions.

### 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 continued its

engagement with His Majesty's Government and the devolved nations. This has included:

- a. Working with Remembrancers, Media and Innovation and Growth to monitor the Spring Budget on behalf of the City of London Corporation.
  - b. Writing to the new Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero and Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology on behalf of the Lord Mayor and Policy Chairman.
  - c. Working with Innovation and Growth to provide briefing for the Lord Mayor's attendance at a roundtable and subsequent short meeting with the Chancellor regarding the City Corporation's view on a Future Growth Fund.
  - d. Working with Innovation and Growth to provide briefing for the Policy Chairman bilateral meeting with Number 10 Business Advisor, Oliver Christian.
  - e. Providing briefing for the Lord Mayor for a meeting with Permanent Secretary to the Department for Business and Trade.
  - f. Writing a letter to the City Minister Andrew Griffith MP ahead of his US visit, briefing him on Policy Chairman's observations, evaluations and engagements in US for policy alignment.
  - g. Writing a letter, alongside Environment colleagues, to the Secretary of State of DLUHC to inform him of a recent City of London Planning and Transportation Committee decision.
  - h. Completing a letter writing campaign to more than 10 cross-party politicians to inform them of the third edition of the City of London Corporation's benchmarking report.
  - i. Providing briefing and in-person support, in conjunction with the Remembrancers Office, to the Policy Chairman for his attendance at a BEIS Committee Economic Growth Conference.
  - j. Officer attendance at the Conservative Spring Forum Business Day, which saw most of the Cabinet in attendance.
2. Given the current political climate, the Corporate Affairs Team has continued to build on its engagement with Labour politicians. This has included:
- a. Submitting a comprehensive response to the Labour National Policy Forum Consultation on the City Corporation's work, focussing on sustainable finance and international trade.
  - b. Hosting Labour's International Women's Day event at the Guildhall, attended by a number of shadow front benchers including Rachel Reeves, Tulip Siddiq, Anneliese Dodds and Jonathan Reynolds. This included drafting follow-up correspondence for the Policy Chairman.
  - c. Providing briefing for the Chair of Communications and Corporate Affairs for a roundtable with Nick Thomas-Symonds and ensuring additional Officer attendance.
  - d. Commencing work on the Finance for Growth communications and political engagement strategy. This included drafting a letter writing campaign to more than 20 cross-party politicians, including many Labour politicians, announcing the launch of Finance for Growth.

- e. Building and strengthening relationships at an officer level with Labour Party advisors and researchers.

### **Pan-London Engagement**

- 3. Corporate Affairs continues to lead on pan London political engagement by supporting the Policy Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Vice Chairs. Since the previous Sub Committee, the team has continued to maintain and develop external political relations and to provide strategic advice. This work has included:
  - a. Providing briefing and in person support to the Vice Chairman of Policy and Resources for the Congress of Leaders, attended by the Mayor of London and Deputy Mayor of London for Housing.
  - b. Ensuring that the City Corporation's political leaders are well briefed on various London Councils meetings, helping to safeguard the City Corporation's messaging in policy development with Borough Leaders and London Councils.
  - c. Working with Communications colleagues and external agents for the redevelopment of London Wall West and providing support to the Policy Chairman on relations with the Deputy Mayor of London for Culture and the Creative Industries.
  - d. Reviewing papers for the London & Partners and providing the Policy Chairman with insights and strategic advice.
  - e. Engaging with the Mayor of London on bus services in the City.
  - f. Working with Mansion House to provide support for the Lord Mayor's attendance at the Annual Two Cities Luncheon with the Lord Mayor of Westminster.
  - g. Coordinating across the City Corporation for casework matters arising from Nickie Aiken MP.
  - h. Liaising with London Councils and the Office of the Policy Chairman for events and briefings, such as an event with Baroness Casey; and also the New Councillors Reception.
  - i. Building on relations with the City Corporation's Assembly Member's office, creating a better understanding of the work of the City Corporation.

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

- 4. In a previous last Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee, it was requested that the Corporate Affairs Team should highlight the Corporation's engagement with regions and SNP. Since the last CCASC meeting, the Corporate Affairs Team has:
  - a. Written a farewell letter to former First Minister Rt. Hon. Nicola Sturgeon.
  - b. Written a congratulatory letter to First Minister Rt. Hon. Humza Yousaf MSP for Policy Chairman.
  - c. Provided briefing points for the Lord Mayor ahead of his visit to Manchester and meeting with Mayor Andy Burnham.

## 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:
  - a. Provided a briefing to Tijs Broeke for an IBDE lunch meeting with the Dutch Ambassador.
  - b. Organised the HM Treasury Women in Finance Charter Annual Review Launch, alongside partner New Financial including briefing and drafting remarks for the Chairman of Communications and Corporate Affairs
  - c. Delivered a Member briefing with Chatham House hosted by the Policy Chairman on "*The Impact of the War in Ukraine*"
  - d. Attendance at roundtables and events on subject matters of interest to the City Corporation and briefing to colleagues on key points.
  - e. Officer attendance at Onward roundtable with the Attorney General.

## Future engagement

6. The Corporate Affairs Team continues to plan for future engagement with political stakeholders. Priorities for the Corporate Affairs Team over the next 2 months are:
  - a. 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.
  - b. Supporting the Policy Chair in engagement with London Government - Mayor and borough leaders - focussing on ensuring London is speaking with one voice.
  - c. 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.
  - d. Support the Corporation with communications and political engagement regarding Finance for Growth.
  - e. 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.
  - f. Continue to support other departments in preparation for political engagement at Corporation events.

## Corporate & Strategic Implications

### Strategic implications

7. We engage with political stakeholders, organise events associated with the party-political conferences and work with the think tanks 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

8. 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

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

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