

Committee(s): Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee	Dated: 14 June 2023
Subject: Corporate Affairs Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2-10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
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: Philip Saunders, Acting Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs	For Information
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Summary

This 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
- Maintaining a political engagement plan for the Policy Chairman, alongside colleagues in Remembrancers.
- Continuing and strengthening relationships with pan-London political stakeholders and briefing them on the work of the City Corporation
- Continuing engagement with external partners.

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. Providing briefing for the Lord Mayor and Policy Chairman's meeting with the City Minister Andrew Griffith MP.
 - b. Working with Innovation and Growth to provide political briefing ahead of the Net Zero Delivery Summit, including a meeting between the Policy Chairman and Baroness Penn, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury.
 - c. Providing briefing for a meeting between The Policy Chairman and Lord Dominic Johnson, Minister for Investment.
 - d. Providing briefing for the Policy Chairman's attendance at a breakfast roundtable with Gareth Davies CB, Permanent Secretary to Department for Business and Trade and several industry leaders.
 - e. Providing briefing for the Policy Chairman and the Lord Mayor ahead of the Business Connect conference in Westminster.
2. The Corporate Affairs Team has continued build on its engagement with Labour politicians. This has included:
- a. Providing briefing for the Chair of Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee's attendance at a roundtable with Deborah Mattinson, Director of Strategy for the Leader Opposition Sir Keir Starmer.
 - b. Briefing the Policy Chairman for a meeting with Jonathan Reynolds MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and industrial Strategy.
 - c. Providing guidance for the Lord Mayor for a meeting with Pat McFadden MP, Shadow Chief Secretary to HM Treasury.
 - d. Providing briefing for the Vice Chair of Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee for a roundtable with Jonathan Reynolds MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and industrial Strategy.
 - e. Working with Innovation and Growth to organise a private briefing for a Labour researcher to convey key Corporation FPS priorities ahead of manifesto development .
 - f. Writing a letter to Ed Miliband MP outlining the Climate Action Strategy and Sustainable Finance work of the City Corporation.
 - g. Organising an officer level information and briefing session on key Labour policies and stakeholders with an outside agency.
 - h. Arranging a presentation to the International Regulatory Strategy Group on Labour policies and engagement strategy.
 - i. Securing mention and endorsement of the Future Growth Fund in a speech by the Shadow Chancellor, Rachel Reeves MP, in coordination with Innovation and Growth and Media teams.

Pan-London Engagement

1. Corporate Affairs continues to engage with pan London stakeholders, providing support, advice and inputs to the Policy Chairman and deputies. As we start to move into a new electoral cycle for the Mayor of London, particular attention has been given to these developments. Work continues by:
 - a. Drafting a response from the Policy Chairman to the Minister for London, setting out the key challenges and opportunities faced by the City of London Corporation.

- b. Working with Environment colleagues on the ongoing Barbican Tube noise issue, meeting with the Deputy Mayor of London for Transport, Seb Dance, as well as Transport for London officers.
- c. Briefing the Policy Chairman for his meetings with the Deputy Mayor of London for Business, as well with the City MP, Nickie Aiken.
- d. Supporting the Policy Chairman in making representations to Transport for London on changes to Travelcards, ensuring that the views of the City Corporation are taken into account.
- e. Providing briefing support and advice to the Policy Chairman for the bi-weekly London Councils Elected Officers group meetings.
- f. Liaising with the City MP, Nickie Aiken on constituency issues, ensuring that full and timely responses are provided by the Policy Chairman.
- g. Liaising with London and Partners, as well as providing briefing support to the Policy Chairman for his attendance at Board meetings.
- h. Monitoring and sharing intelligence on the 2024 Mayoral elections.
- i. Providing advice and support on stakeholder mapping to events colleagues on the upcoming Pride ceremony at the Guildhall.

Engagement with External Partners

- a. Engaging and securing an agreement with Centre for London to support its Autumn Conference, as well as a new project, *Re-booting London's economy: Delivering inclusive and sustainable growth*.
- b. Developing a relationship with Progressive Britain, a left wing think tank, including becoming a member of its Corporate Forum.
- c. Engaging and securing multiple external partners for Party Conference season including Onward, Centre for Policy Studies, IPPR and Progressive Britain.
- d. Continuing to engage with the International Business and Diplomacy Exchange.
- e. Alongside Innovation and Growth, monitoring developments involving the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and providing intelligence, support and counsel on the suspension of our membership.

Future engagement

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. Including collaborating with other teams on event subject matter and negotiating with possible event partners.

- d. Support the Corporation with communications and political engagement regarding the increasingly high-profile Finance for Growth and Future Growth Fund agendas.
- e. Provide 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.

Sport Strategy & Engagement

1. The Sport Strategy will have been through all relevant committees by the time this Sub Committee meets and, assuming it is approved by Policy and Resources, the Sport Engagement Manager will begin taking forward delivery, which initially will involve the appointment of a Sport Strategy Officer to assist this work.
2. With regards to sport engagement, the Freedom Ceremony and Reception for footballer Harry Kane was successful, generating high levels of media interest. The next main event is the City Corporation's hosting of a reception at Guildhall on 23rd June ahead of the Major League Baseball London Series. The Sport Engagement Manager is also commencing plans for 2024, which will be a busy time for sport with engagement linked to the Paris 2024 Games and London's hosting the Champions League Final on 1st June.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

3. 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

4. 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

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

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