

Committee(s): Communications and Corporate Affairs (Policy & Resources) Sub Committee – For information	Dated: 10/12/25
Subject: Parliamentary Team Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Diverse Engaged Communities, Dynamic Economic Growth Leading Sustainable Environment Vibrant Thriving Destination Providing Excellent Services Flourishing Public Spaces
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: Paul Wright, City Remembrancer	For Information
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Summary

This summary updates Members on the main elements of the Parliamentary Team's previous and planned activity in support of the City of London Corporation's political and parliamentary engagement since the last formal update to the sub-committee on 8th October 2025.

Recommendation(s)

Members are recommended to note the report.

Main Report

Legislative Programme Update

1. The current parliamentary session has been extended to Spring 2026, allowing the government to progress the legislative agenda promised as part of its election manifesto.

Key Bills:

Employment Rights Bill [Department for Business and Trade] –

2. The Bill covers a wide range of areas including reforms to rules regarding zero hours contracts, flexible working, statutory sick pay, family leave, protection from harassment, unfair dismissal, "fire and rehire" practices and trade unions. The Office is liaising with relevant colleagues in service departments regarding direct implications of the Bill on the Corporation as an employer. The Bill has passed third reading in the House of Lords, and has been in "Ping-Ping" phase since September, with the Government losing key votes in the House of Lords on issues such as day-one workers rights, seasonal work and zero-hours contracts.

Property (Digital Assets etc) Bill [Ministry of Justice]–

3. A Law Commission Bill, the measure aims to clarify that assets such as crypto-tokens, crypto-currency and non-fungible tokens could be capable of attracting property rights. The Bill, arising from Law Commission recommendations, contains only one substantive clause. The legislation hopes to provide more clarity in cases involving digital assets, including settlements, divorces, or disputed ownership. It has made slow progress through Parliament but has recently started to move again and it is now at Committee Stage in the House of Commons (its second House).

The Crime and Policing Bill [Home Office]

4. This Bill has progressed in the House of Lords, where it past second reading and has now entered the House of Lords Committee stage. The Bill focuses on community policing and delivering higher policing standards by expanding the powers of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services to intervene in failing police forces and introducing higher mandatory national vetting standards. The Bill will ‘crackdown on anti-social behaviour’ thorough new Respect Orders, fast-tracked Public Spaces Protection Orders and new powers to tackle anti-social use of off-road bikes. It will create a new specific offence of assaulting a shopworker and tackle low level shoplifting. It will strengthen the law to tackle exploitation of children for criminal purposes and provide specialist responses to violence against women and girls. Of particular interest to City of London Police, the Bill also introduces new measures to Combat cyber-enabled fraud and the use of SIM farms.

The Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill [Department for Education]

5. This Bill aims to ‘remove barriers to opportunity for children and families’ by strengthening multi-agency child protection and safeguarding arrangements, requiring free breakfast clubs in every primary school and limiting the costs of school uniforms and kits. It has now reached Report Stage in the House of Lords, and will bring in a number of new duties including on local authorities to have and maintain a Children Not in School register and a requirement for all schools to cooperate with the local authority on school admissions, SEND inclusion and place planning. Following a review of curriculum and assessment, all schools – including academies - will be required to teach the national curriculum and multi-academy trusts will be brought into the inspection system, as had also been proposed by the last government. The Bill has wide ranging implications across the Corporation’s education functions, and we are working with the Community and Children’s Services Department to identify the implications and impacts.

Planning and Infrastructure Bill [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government]

6. The Bill is now in its final stages (consideration of amendments or “ping pong”). The Bill is designed to create greater flexibility in the planning system and to implement a new system of environmental protection.

Public Office (Accountability) Bill 2025 [Cabinet Office]

7. The Bill, widely referred to as the ‘Hillsborough Law,’ was introduced into Parliament on 16 September, and will place a legal duty of candour on public servants and authorities and address the ‘unacceptable defensive culture’ in the

public sector. It aims to increase transparency and accountability, improve assistance for bereaved persons and core participants at inquests and public inquiries and provide legal aid for victims of disasters or state-related deaths.

English Devolution Bill [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government]

8. The Bill, which has now reached its Report Stage in the House of Commons, is designed to establish a standardised framework for devolution in England, including powers over strategic planning, transport, skills and employment support. Local leaders will be empowered to produce Local Growth Plans and enabled to formally request additional powers, with the Government required to consider the request. A simpler process for creating new Combined and Combined County Authorities will be established, while local communities will be empowered with a 'right to buy' community assets, such as empty shops, pubs and community spaces. During the Bill's Committee Stage, it was confirmed by the Government that it had no intention to extend provisions abolishing local authorities' ability to adopt a committee system of governance to the City of London Corporation. The City Corporation was also removed from scope of provisions requiring local authorities to implement measures for "effective neighbourhood governance" (as yet undefined by the Government). The impact on the City Corporation of the Bill's scrapping of upward-only rent review clauses in commercial leases is being assessed. At the time of writing, reports indicated that provisions would also be introduced to the Bill allowing strategic authorities to implement visitor levies on overnight stays. Monitoring of the Bill's progress continues.

Pension Schemes Bill [Department for Work and Pensions]

9. The Bill, which was introduced into Parliament in June and has since completed its report stage in the House of Commons, aims to help those saving in private-sector pension schemes to get better outcomes from their pension assets and support the Government's mission to deliver growth. Its measures will facilitate the consolidation of Defined Contribution individual deferred small pension pots, establish a Value for Money framework for pension schemes, place duties on trustees of occupational pension schemes to offer a retirement income solution or range of solutions, including default investment options, to their members, consolidate the Defined Benefit market through commercial Superfunds, reaffirm the Pensions Ombudsman as a competent court so that pension schemes no longer need to apply to the courts to enforce its decisions in relation to the recovery of overpayments, and amend the Special Rules for End of Life (Pension Protection Fund and Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS)) extending the definition of 'terminal illness', allowing eligible members within the Pension Protection Fund and the Financial Assistance Scheme to receive a lump sum payment at an earlier stage. The City Corporation submitted evidence to the Public Bill Committee on their inquiry into the Bill. The submission welcomed the Pension Schemes Bill, whose provisions align with the City Corporation's work regarding the Mansion House Accord.

Victims, Courts and Public Protection Bill [Ministry of Justice]

10. This Bill aims to deliver on the Government's promise "to put the needs of victims first." Its measures will seek to ensure that victims of crime and antisocial behaviour get the support they need, strengthen the powers of the Victims'

Commissioner, require offenders to attend their sentencing hearings, reduce delays in the courts system by allowing Associate Prosecutors to work on appropriate cases, and give the public increased protections from sex offenders. It has now reached it's second reading in the House of Lords.

Tobacco and Vapes Bill [Department of Health and Social Care]

11. This Bill aims to create the first “smoke-free generation” by ensuring children born in 2009 or later can never be legally sold tobacco. It also includes provisions to make vaping less attractive and accessible to children and young people, strengthen smoke-free restrictions, and strengthen enforcement around the sale of tobacco and vaping products. It has implications for the City Corporation both as a Trading Standards Authority and a Licensing Authority. The Bill awaits its Report Stage in the House of Lords and has been reported to the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee. It will be reported to future meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Licensing Committee.

Acts which have received Royal Assent

12. **The Renters Rights Act** received Royal Assent on the 27th October 2025. The Act gives more rights to those in Private Rented accommodation, including banning section 21 evictions, limiting the amount of rent a landlord can ask for in advance and ending fixed term tenancies.
13. **Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) Bill** has passed all of it's stages in both Houses, and is due to receive Royal Assent (Date to be Announced.) The Bill aims to reduce public sector fraud, error and debt, and enable better recover of public money when it has been stolen or overpaid.

Private Members' Bills

14. In the context of the City's port health responsibilities, a Liberal Democrat backbench Bill, the **Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill**, has made good progress (it has Government support) and has now reached its final stages in the second House. The Bill would change the age at which puppies and kittens could be imported from 15 weeks to six months and also prevent the import of dogs and cats that were more than 42 days pregnant and those that had been mutilated (for example if they had their ears cropped, tails docked or been declawed) and we have continued to engage with Heathrow Animal Rescue Centre (HARC) officers as regards the implications of the Bill for them.

Government Announcements

15. The Minister for Policing and Crime announced the abolition of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCCs) in England and Wales, where possible their functions will be transferred to Mayors at the end of the PCC term in 2028. Where this is not possible, power will be transferred to policing and crime boards.
16. It was explicitly mentioned in the announcement that the reforms will not affect governance arrangements for the City of London Police.

Forward Look and Engagement Update

17. Evidence has been submitted to the International Free Trade Agreements Committee inquiry into the UK-India FTA.

18. Engagement has taken place between officers and MHCLG officials on the forthcoming Elections Bill, which will include measures on voting at 16 and 17 (a manifesto commitment) in addition to further election reforms.
19. Work continues on the APPG for Financial Markets and Services. Since the last Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub Committee meeting, the Chair of the APPG resigned his Chairmanship due to being promoted to Parliamentary Private Secretary. The Parliamentary Team have been working to secure a new Chair, in line with the new Parliamentary Rules.
20. The City's long-standing programme in partnership with the Industry and Parliament Trust has recently included a meeting on trade, designed to showcase the City Corporation's involvement in the Office for Investment: Financial Services. The Policy Chairman spoke alongside Jun Du, Professor of Economics, Aston Business School. Guests were drawn from Parliament and professional services.
21. The Parliamentary Team organised for the Deputy City Police Commissioner to speak at an APPG on Policing to circa 20+ parliamentarians on the role of City of London Police, the National Lead Force role of the Police, and upcoming rollout of the replacement for Action Fraud. There was high-level attendance, including from Lord Hanson of Flint, Minister of State in the Home Office.
22. The City Police Commissioner and, separately, the PAB chairman have participated in national financial crime conference sessions, facilitated by the Office. The Commissioner was the guest at a fireside chat event, and provided an opportunity to engage with the Policing Minister. The PAB chair opened the Financial Crime 360 conference.
23. The City of London (Markets) Bill – Work continues on progressing the Bill, which seeks to repeal existing legislation relating to Billingsgate Market and the London Central Markets, thus removing the City Corporation's legal involvement in those markets. As part of its engagement on the City of London Markets Bill, the team has had ongoing contact with interested MPs.
24. The Parliamentary Team held a Parliamentary Researchers Reception at the Old Bailey in October; Deputy Caroline Haines spoke in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee.

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New Bills

Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill [Department for Science, Innovation and Technology]

The Bill, which had its first reading on the 12th of November, will update the existing UK regulations regarding cyber security (existing Network and Information Systems Regulations 2018), which reflect laws inherited from the EU. It will better protect digital services by expanding the remit of the regulations, put regulators on a stronger footing to ensure cyber safety measures are being implemented, and mandating increased incident reporting to give government better data on cyber-attacks. It follows a series of high-profile cyber attacks on businesses, which has come at a cost to the UK economy.

Draft Bills

Draft Leasehold and Commonhold Reform Bill [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government]

The draft Bill aims to enact the Law Commission recommendations to bolster leaseholders' fundamental rights to extend their lease and buy their freehold (enfranchisement) and take over the freeholders building management functions (Right to Manage). It will seek to modernise the legal framework for commonhold and restrict the sale of new leasehold flats. It will also seek to tackling ground rents for existing leaseholders, so they no longer face unregulated and unaffordable costs. The Government intends to publish a draft Leasehold and Commonhold Reform Bill in the second half of 2025.

Draft Equality (Race and Disability) Bill [Government Equalities Office]

The draft Bill aims to deliver on the Government's manifesto commitment to enshrine in law the full right to equal pay for ethnic minority and disabled people, and to introduce mandatory ethnicity and disability pay reporting.