



ASSOCIATE PARLIAMENTARY CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY GROUP



Annual Report

2008-09

The Group was sponsored by Business in the Community with the support of Standard Life during 2008-09.

Business
in the

Community

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Introduction



The 2008-2009 Parliamentary Session has been a very significant period for the Group. The Group was founded in 2001 by a handful of committed Parliamentarians, supported by Business in the Community, in response to a survey which found little awareness of CR issues on the part of Parliamentarians. The Group's purpose was then and remains to promote debate and understanding of corporate responsibility issues within Parliament. It seeks to achieve this by promoting an exchange of views between Parliamentarians and people with an active interest in corporate responsibility.

Since 2001 the Group has become more active, grown in size and we have succeeded in raising awareness of CR issues among Parliamentarians. This year, in a decisive step, the Officers decided that the Group should include non-Parliamentarians as Associate members. We believe that broadening the membership of the Group will improve the dialogue at our meetings and establish the Group on a sustainable, financial footing. We are very grateful to Business in the Community for its support during this process. Since April, the Secretariat has recruited 80 new Associate members and I look forward very much to working with them alongside our 130 Parliamentary members (67 MPs and 63 Peers).

As before this Annual Report includes a summary of the meetings we have held throughout the session as well as a record of our current membership. Further information about the Group will be available on our new website (www.apcrg.org.uk), which is currently under development. Members will be informed when the website goes live.

In 2008 the Group held a second inquiry to look in more detail at an issue of concern to our members: the talent and skills challenge facing the UK and the way in which Government, businesses and other organisations are responding to this challenge. We published our report in December 2008 and followed it up with a debate in the Lords on 5 March 2009. The Group also sponsored an exhibition in the Upper Waiting Hall of the Commons in February, which highlighted the issue of "green talent" one of the emerging issues identified in our report. We have no doubt that this will remain a critical issue for the UK and responsible organisations, alongside the challenge of climate change, in the years ahead.

I greatly look forward to working with the Officers and members to ensure that we hold a stimulating programme of meetings in 2009-10. We welcome suggestions about subjects to be discussed at future meetings and I hope that members will not hesitate to let us know if they have any suggestions for the Group's work in the next session.

Baroness Greengross, Chairman 2008-09

Meetings held 2008-09

Responsible business practice and SMEs

The Group held a discussion over lunch in the Astor Suite on 21 October 2008 to discuss responsible business practice in small and medium-sized businesses. We are grateful to BT for sponsoring this lunch. Our guest speakers were Kirsty McHugh, the Director of Regeneration and Social Policy for Business in the Community; Robin Mackenzie, Director of Strategy and Transformation for BT Business; and Mike Horne, the Managing Director of ASHA, who gave a joint presentation on behalf of ASHA and Commercial, two SMEs based in Cheltenham.

Annual lunch & launch of inquiry report – December 2008

The Group's held a lunch for all members in Dining Room A of the House of Commons on 16 December at which we launched our inquiry report, *The talent challenge facing the UK 2008-2020 - and the response from responsible business*. Our guest speakers were: Andrew Marshall-Roberts, Head of Corporate Responsibility for Standard Life; his colleague, Julie McDowell, Head of Socially Responsible Investment at Standard Life; Claire Chaubert, Deputy Director Employer Demand for Skills at the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills; and Stephen Howard, Chief Executive of Business in the Community.

The members of the inquiry team were: Baroness Greengross, Martin Horwood MP, Baroness Howe, Lord Newby, John Robertson MP and Jo Swinson MP. The inquiry team was supported by Patricia Constant of CLC and Andrew Dakers of Business in the Community. Observers from the UK Youth Parliament and the Department of Work and Pensions attended inquiry team meetings.

Tackling climate change and developing green jobs

The Group sponsored an exhibition in Parliament from 9-13 February 2009 on the theme of tackling climate change and developing "green talent". The exhibition, which was designed and produced by Business in the Community, was displayed in the Upper Waiting Hall of the House of Commons. The need to develop "green talent" was one of the issues highlighted in the Group's 2008 inquiry report on the talent challenge facing the UK.

What can businesses do to help prevent violent extremism?

Following the Government's publication of a revised Counter Terrorism Strategy in late March, the Group held a meeting on 20 May to discuss what businesses, as part of our communities, can do to help prevent violent extremism in the UK. Clearly the way in which organisations treat their staff, suppliers and customers will have a real impact. Our guest speakers at this meeting - Professor Ted Cantele, Chairman of the Institute of Community Cohesion; and John O'Brien, Managing Director of Mosaic - were well qualified to speak

about the wider corporate environment affecting community cohesion – including schools and universities.

Annual General Meeting 2009

The Group's AGM was held on 11 June in the House of Commons. Lord Newby was elected as our Treasurer and Baroness Howe of Idlicote was elected as a Vice-Chair. All the other Officers agreed to be re-nominated and were elected unopposed. Members discussed ideas for meetings in the autumn of 2009 and early 2010 and a draft programme was agreed. All members are encouraged to contact the Secretariat to suggest subject for future meetings.

Summer Reception - can CSR help pull the UK out of recession?

The theme of our summer reception, which celebrated the re-launch of the Group as an Associate Parliamentary Group, was whether corporate responsibility can help pull the UK out of recession or whether, as some commentators have suggested, the recession would result in some companies abandoning "corporate responsibility". There was clear consensus that responsible business practice – not least in terms of investing in the skills of the workforce – is essential to the UK's economic recovery. It was also heartening to learn of the continuing willingness of companies large and small to embark on the corporate responsibility journey, despite challenging economic circumstances. The guest speakers at our reception on 17 June, which was kindly sponsored by Heart of the City, were: Gerry Acher and Fiona Rawes, Chairman and Director of Heart of the City; and Peter Lambert, Deputy Chief Executive, Business in the Community.

Business action on health and its implications for Parliament & Parliamentarians

On 9 July members discussed business action on health and its implications for the Parliamentary authorities and individual Parliamentarians as employers. In recent years, responsible businesses have been making ever greater efforts to support the health of their workforce, both as ethical employers and because the business case for such activity is increasingly clear. This meeting provided an opportunity for members to be briefed on emerging evidence and policy developments. We were delighted to welcome as our guest speakers: Professor Dame Carol Black, the National Director of Health and Work; Louise Aston, Director Business Action on Health at Business in the Community; and Andrew Marshall-Roberts, Head of Corporate Responsibility at Standard Life. We are grateful to Aramark for supplying the refreshments at this event.

Next meeting – October 2009

The Group's first meeting after the summer recess will be held on Wednesday 21 October from 12.30-2.30pm in the Jubilee Room of the House of Commons, when we will be discussing how businesses respond to the needs of vulnerable customers.

Membership of the APPG on CSR

The Group is officially registered with the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and it is on the Approved List as a recognised Associate Parliamentary Group.

Chairman:

Baroness Greengross OBE

Vice-Chairmen:

Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen, Baroness Howe of Idlicote, John Robertson MP, Lord Sheppard of Didgemere, Jo Swinson MP and Ian Taylor MBE MP.

Hon. Treasurer:

Lord Newby

Hon. Secretary:

Martin Horwood MP

MPs:

Tony Baldry, Ed Balls, Gregory Barker, Rt Hon John Battle, Miss Anne Begg, Peter Bottomley, Dr Vincent Cable, Rt Hon David Cameron, Colin Challen, Ben Chapman, Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke, Michael Connarty, Rosie Cooper, Jim Cousins, Ian Davidson, Parmjit Dhanda, Jonathon Djanogly, David Drew, Nigel Evans, Dr Hywel Francis, Linda Gilroy, Michael Gove, Rt Hon John Gummer, Stephen Hammond, Dr Evan Harris, Stephen Hesford, Paul Holmes, Phil Hope, Chris Huhne, Rt Hon Michael Jack, Barbara Keeley, David Kidney, Ashok Kumar, David Lammy, Mark Lazarowicz, David Lepper, Tim Loughton, Andy Love, Ian Lucas, Fiona Mactaggart, Rt Hon John McFall, Jim McGovern, Rt Hon Michael Meacher, Rt Hon Alun Michael, Madeleine Moon, Michael Moore, Margaret Moran, Jessica Morden, Eddie O'Hara, Lembit Opik, Andrew Pelling, Bridget Prentice, Adam Price, Jamie Reed, Paul Rowen, Barry Sheerman, Anne Snelgrove, Anthony Steen, Ian Stewart, Jo Swinson, Gareth R Thomas, Ed Vaizey and Rudi Vis.

Peers:

Lord Alton of Liverpool, Baroness Andrews, Lord Bhatia, Baroness Blood, Lord Brennan, Lord Brett, Lord Browne of Madingley, Baroness Buscombe, Lord Butler of Brockwell, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Lord Clement-Jones, Lord Corbett of Castle Vale, Baroness Coussins, Baroness Cumberlege, Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, Lord Faulkner of Worcester, Lord Freeman, Lord Gavron, Baroness Goudie, Baroness Gould of Potternewton,

Lord Harrison of Chester, Lord Haskel, Lord Haskins, Lord Hastings of Scarisbrick, Baroness Hayman, Baroness Hooper, Lord Howarth of Newport CBE, Lord Howell of Guildford, Lord Joffe, Lord Jones, Lord Judd, Lord Lester of Herne Hill, Lord MacGregor of Pulham Market, Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall, Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer, Lord Mitchell, Lord Newton of Braintree, Baroness Noakes, Baroness Northover, Lord O'Neill of Clackmannan, Lord Paul, Lord Peston, Lord Phillips of Sudbury, Baroness Pitkeathley, Baroness Prashar, Baroness Prosser, Lord Puttnam, Baroness Richardson of Calow, Lord Sharman, Baroness Sharp of Guildford, Lord Sheldon, Lord Simon of Highbury, Lord Stevenson of Coddenham, Lord Stone of Blackheath, Lord Taylor of Warwick, Baroness Warwick of Undercliffe, Baroness Whitaker, Lord Williamson of Horton and Lord Wolfson.

Associate members:

2 Sisters Food Group, Accenture, Addleshaw Goddard LLP, Alliance Boots, Apax Partners, ASDA Stores Ltd, Associated British Foods plc, Aviva, AXA UK, Axis Europe plc, Bain & Company Inc UK, Bank of America, BBC, Betfair Ltd, Brown-Forman, BT plc, Camelot Group plc, Capita Group plc, CEMEX, Centrica plc, Channel 4 Television, City of London Corporation, Coca-Cola Enterprises Limited, CSC Computer Sciences, Diageo, DLA Piper UK LLP, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Gallaher Ltd, Guardian News & Media Ltd, Halcrow Group Limited, Hallmark Cards plc, Heart of the City, Herbert Smith LLP, HM Revenue and Customs, Imperial Tobacco Group plc, Institute of Business Ethics, Jaguar Land Rover, John Laing, Johnson Matthey, KPMG, Laing O'Rourke, Legal & General Group plc, Liberty International plc, Linklaters LLP, Lovells LLP, Man Group plc, Manchester Airport plc, McCain Foods (GB) Ltd, McDonald's Restaurants Ltd, National Grid, National House Building Council, Northumbrian Water Ltd, Provident Financial plc, RBS, Reed Elsevier, Royal Mail Group, RWE npower, Samworth Brothers (Holdings) Ltd, Scottish Power plc, SEGRO plc, Serco Group plc, Shell UK Ltd, Siemens plc, Sodexo Ltd, Standard Life plc, Thales Holdings UK plc, The British Land Company plc, The Midcounties Cooperative, The University of Nottingham, Thomson Reuters plc, Transport for London, Trinity Mirror plc, Ufi Ltd, Unipart Group, White & Case, WPP, WSP Group plc, Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank Foundation, and Zurich Insurance plc.

Group Sponsors 2008-2009 – Business in the Community and Standard Life

Business in the Community helped establish and provided support for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Corporate Responsibility from its creation in 2001 through to 2009, for which the Group is very grateful. Since 2008, the financial support was made possible by the support of Standard Life. It also supports the creation of the current Associate Parliamentary Corporate Responsibility Group and remains an Associate member. Business in the Community is a membership organisation that mobilises business for good. With over 25 years experience, it looks to inspire, engage, support and challenge its 850 member companies to improve their positive impact on society. Further information about Business in the Community is available at: www.bitc.org.uk.