



**ASSOCIATE PARLIAMENTARY
CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY GROUP**



Annual Report

2010-2011

Introduction



The 2010-2011 Parliamentary session has been another fascinating year for the Group and one that has revealed countless examples of excellent business practice. As always, this Annual Report includes a summary of the meetings we have held throughout the period as well as a record of our membership (111 Parliamentary members and 78 Associate members). Detailed minutes of all the meetings are available on the Group's website at www.apcrg.org.uk.

Our purpose - to promote debate and understanding of corporate responsibility issues within Parliament - has been well served by a series of successful events, which have provided an opportunity for members to exchange views on topical issues with some excellent guest speakers.

At a time when we have seen widespread strife erupt once again across our towns and cities, it is worth reflecting again on the impact that effective community programmes can achieve. Much has been achieved since the riots of the early 1980s, but much remains to be done. Over recent years our economy and political system have been subject to serious challenges which have resulted in a loss of trust for business, politicians and, more recently, the media. Responsible business behaviour is, therefore, more important than ever. Companies will only retain the "freedom to operate" if they are seen to be acting in the interests of all their stakeholders. As Sir Richard Lambert told us recently, business has to earn the trust of the public to avoid being seen as the "enemy within".

Against this background, I expect the APCRG to be as busy as ever: challenging businesses to raise their standards and providing opportunities for Parliamentarians to learn more about responsible business practice. I greatly look forward to working with the Officers and members in the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally Greengross".

Baroness Greengross, Chairman 2010-11

Meetings held 2010-2011

Workplace volunteering & care vouchers - October 2010

Our first meeting of the autumn term was a joint meeting with the Intergenerational Futures All Party Parliamentary Group to discuss workplace volunteering and care vouchers: two issues linking business to the wider community. Professor Heinz Wolff of Brunel University spoke about the importance of workplace volunteering and the need to increase volunteering in the context of an ageing society. Sam Smethers, the Chief Executive of Grandparents Plus, spoke about the need to support carers in the workplace and the possibility of rewarding employee volunteering with care vouchers.

The responsibilities of UK companies operating overseas – December 2010

The emergence of important new legislation in the USA and Britain – and the wealth of international guidelines and initiatives – can make identifying the key responsibilities of British companies operating overseas difficult. This meeting provided an opportunity for members to receive clear and practical advice from Lord Newby and Philippa Foster-Back, the Director of the Institute of Business Ethics, on the implications of the UK 2010 Bribery Act; and from international consultant, Donna Boehme, about the OECD Good Practice Guidance, the US Dodd-Frank legislation and other international trends that could affect UK companies operating overseas.

Employee engagement: how to get the best from your talent – February 2011

Employees' commitment to an organisation is crucial for its success, but eliciting and sustaining this commitment is not a simple matter. At this meeting Professor David Grayson of the Cranfield Business School spoke about the importance of employee engagement and the business benefits of achieving it; Angela Baron, a CIPD Adviser on Organisation Development and Engagement, discussed the CIPD's research in this area; and Caroline Waters, Director People & Policy at BT plc, explained how BT seeks to engage employees and the results of doing so.

Corporate Reporting – March 2010

The rationale for clear, balanced and fair company reports is that it makes it easier for investors to make sensible long term investment decisions and it makes it easier for other stakeholders to hold companies to account for their impact on society. Corporate reporting has been on the political agenda since the Labour Government raised the possibility of introducing an Operating & Financial Review and subsequently introduced the Business Review. This meeting took place following a consultation on narrative reporting by the coalition Government; and the publication of a new UK Corporate Governance Code, a Stewardship Code for institutional investors and the Financial Reporting Council's report, *Effective Company Stewardship: Enhancing Corporate Reporting and Audit*. Our speakers were the

Business Minister, Ed Davey MP, and Stephen Haddrill, Chief Executive of the Financial Reporting Council.

AGM – May 2011

The Group's AGM – a requirement of the Parliamentary rules for Approved Parliamentary Groups - was held on 18 May in the House of Commons. All the existing Officers agreed to be re-nominated and were elected unopposed. Lord Younger of Leckie was also elected as an additional Vice-Chair. The Officers discussed ideas for meetings in the year ahead and a provisional programme was agreed. All members are encouraged to contact the Secretariat to suggest subjects for future meetings.

Transforming Business, Transforming Communities – May 2011

In May we held a Parliamentary reception, sponsored by Fujitsu, and supported by Business in the Community (BITC), which launched the network of "Business Connectors" and a new online toolkit and guide to responsible business for MPs, the Fujitsu Cloud. After speeches from the Business Minister, Ed Davey, and Duncan Tait, the Chief Executive of Fujitsu UK & Ireland, Stephen Howard of BITC led contributions from the floor which described how Business Connectors could facilitate and support relationships between business and civil society.

Corporate Reputation & Risk – July 2011

On 6 July we held a meeting to discuss corporate reputation and risk which could hardly have been more topical, coinciding as it did with an emergency debate in the Commons on allegations about phone hacking at the *News of the World*. The subject has been a matter of keen concern for many companies, with the financial crisis and the Gulf of Mexico oil disaster providing recent examples of how stark the consequences can be when firms suffer reputational damage. Richard Ellis, Director of Corporate Responsibility at Alliance Boots, explained how Alliance Boots works systematically to protect and sustain its reputation. Sir Richard Lambert, Chancellor of the University of Warwick and a former Editor of *The Financial Times* and Director General of the CBI, focussed on the reputation of business overall and long term trends that have damaged trust in business. He suggested long term investment, education and training should lie at the centre of business because this is the way to give people the skills they need, to provide a sound foundation for jobs, trade and economic growth and to regenerate our communities.

Membership of the APPG on CSR

Officers:

Chair: Baroness Greengross OBE

Vice-Chairs: Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen, Baroness Howe of Idlicote, John Robertson MP, Lord Sheppard of Didgemere, Jo Swinson MP and Lord Younger of Leckie.

Hon. Treasurer: Lord Newby

Hon. Secretary: Martin Horwood MP

MPs:

Tony Baldry, Ed Balls, Gregory Barker, Miss Anne Begg, Peter Bottomley, Vincent Cable, David Cameron, Kenneth Clarke, Michael Connarty, Rosie Cooper, Ian Davidson, Jonathon Djanogly, Jonathan Evans, Nigel Evans, Hywel Francis, Michael Gove, Stephen Hammond, Chris Huhne, Barbara Keeley, David Lammy, Mark Lazarowicz, Tim Loughton, Andy Love, Ian Lucas, Fiona Mactaggart, Jim McGovern, Michael Meacher, Alun Michael, Madeleine Moon, Michael Moore, Jessica Morden, Nicky Morgan, Jamie Reed, Barry Sheerman, Ian Stewart, Jo Swinson, Gareth R Thomas and Ed Vaizey.

Peers:

Lord Aberdare, 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 Debden, 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 Howard of Lympne, Lord Howarth of Newport, Lord Howell of Guildford, Lord Joffe, Lord Jones, Lord Judd, Lord Lester of Herne Hill, Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, 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 Coddanham, Lord Stone of Blackheath, Lord Taylor of Warwick, Lord Touhig, Baroness Valentine, Baroness Warwick of Undercliffe, Baroness Whitaker, Lord Williamson of Horton, and Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale.

Associate members:

Accenture, Addleshaw Goddard LLP, Allen and Overy LLP, Alliance Boots, AMEC, Apax Partners, ASDA Stores Ltd, Associated British Foods plc, AXA UK, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, BBC, Betfair Ltd, British American Tobacco, British Land, BT plc. Cambridge University Press, Camelot Group plc, Capita Group plc, Capital Shopping Centres Group plc, Carillion Energy Services, CEMEX, Centrica plc, Channel 4 Television, Charities Aid Foundation, City of London Corporation, Clifford Chance LLP, Coca-Cola Enterprises Limited, CSC Computer Sciences, Diageo plc, Financial Dynamics, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Gala Coral Group, Gentoo Green Group Ltd, Halcrow Group Limited, Hallmark Cards plc, Hermes Equity Ownership Services Ltd, Hogan Lovells LLP, Imperial Tobacco Group plc, Institute of Business Ethics, Jaguar Land Rover, John Laing, John Lewis Partnership, Johnson Matthey, JTI, KPMG, Leeds Metropolitan University, Legal & General Group plc, Liberty International plc, Linklaters LLP, Man Group plc, Manchester Airport plc, Marks and Spencer plc, McDonald's Restaurants Ltd, MITIE, National Grid, Nationwide Building Society, Northumbrian Water Ltd, Olswang LLP, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Provident Financial plc, RBS, Reed Elsevier, Rolls Royce plc, RWE npower, Samworth Brothers (Holdings) Ltd, Scottish Power plc, SEGRO plc, Serco Group plc, Shell UK Ltd, Siemens plc, Southern Water, Tata Consultancy Services, Thales Holdings UK plc, The British Safety Council, The University of Nottingham, Whitbread, WPP, Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank Foundation and Zurich Insurance plc.

Finance and Registration

The Group is officially registered with the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and it is on the Approved List as a recognised Associate Parliamentary Group. Further information about the Group is available on our website at: www.apcrg.org.uk