

**Court of Common Council**  
**Guildhall**  
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024**  
**The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London**  
**Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli**

Good afternoon, everyone...

We last met on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May marked the halfway point of my time as Lord Mayor, and I am delighted that a few days later, on day 186 of this mayoralty, we reached a crescendo with the codifying of the Walbrook AI Accord at the TIC Summit in Brussels.

In collaboration with UKAS and the TIC sector, the Accord enables enterprises to demonstrate that their AI systems are safe, compliant, and aligned with societal values, serving as a conduit to unify collective endeavours supported by ISO, IAF, and other organisations.

Running in parallel with the Accord, the second branch of the 695<sup>th</sup> Lord Mayor's Ethical AI Initiative openly shared a syllabus last year with the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment, the British Computer Society, the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, the Law Society, the Bar Council, and 85 business schools. To date, more than 5,000 participants from 500 organisations across 50 countries have taken the courses.

To pick up where I left off during my last update to this Council, I attended the World Economic Forum's Special Meeting on Global Collaboration, Growth and Energy for Development in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in late April.

From there, I travelled to the United Arab Emirates, with a focus on asset management, sustainable finance, and the Net Zero Delivery Summit we look forward to hosting at Mansion House in just under a fortnight's time, at the midpoint between COPs.

In the latest in a series of distinguished guests to visit our Square Mile, I welcomed His Majesty King Letsie III of Lesotho to the City on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, and Canadian Indigenous leaders on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

Two days later, on 9<sup>th</sup> May, Mansion House played host to ambassadors, high commissioners, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, and the Foreign Secretary, Lord Cameron, for the annual Easter Banquet.

In his speech, Lord Cameron made the point that “we cannot divorce foreign policy from economic performance”, and I was keen to use my own remarks to underline how international standards – a common thread running through this year’s six mayoral initiatives – can provide stability and security against an increasingly challenging geopolitical backdrop.

On 13<sup>th</sup> May, I was pleased to join Geoff Holt and others at Tower Bridge for the start of their remarkable challenge to circumnavigate the UK in aid of the Wetwheels Foundation - a fantastic charity that provides opportunities for disabled people to access the seas.

During the course of their expedition, Geoff and the team will be sampling and collecting microplastics as part of the *Connect to Prosper* experiment series.

Later that week, on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, it was my great privilege to receive Their Majesties The King and Queen at St Paul’s Cathedral for a Service of Dedication for the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Turning to this week, on Monday I was honoured to represent the City and unveil a blue plaque at Furniture Makers’ Hall – the Royal National Lifeboat Institution’s first headquarters, marking 200 years of the RNLI and celebrating the Square Mile’s role in its foundation and growth.

While yesterday begun with an early, wet, and slightly elevated start for Sheriff Masojada and me as we mounted up and took part in the annual Ride Around the City by horseback, with various stops along the way to fundraise for The Lord Mayor’s Appeal and the Sheriffs’ & Records’ Fund.

On Saturday, Sheriff Langley and I will begin a week-long trip to Singapore and Japan to strengthen the Square Mile’s partnerships, including with our friends in the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in eager anticipation of the State Visit of the Emperor and Empress of Japan next month.

To quote the father of computer science, Alan Turing:

*“we can only see a short distance ahead, but we can see plenty there that needs to be done.”*

In the remaining 171 days of this mayoralty, I look forward to continuing working with this Council to get the plenty that needs to be done, done.