

# **Court of Common Council**

Guildhall

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London

Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli

## **Response to 'Vote of Thanks'**

Thank you all for that very kind 'Vote of Thanks'.

It is an incredible privilege to have served as the 695<sup>th</sup> Lord Mayor of the City of London... the world's oldest democratic workers' and residents' cooperative.

My thanks go to all of you for the support you have given me as I have pursued my theme, 'Connect To Prosper', through which we have celebrated the 'Knowledge Miles' of our Square Mile, the 'world's coffee house'.

I know I have put many of you off cappuccinos for life.

But I couldn't be more grateful to you and to all the hard-working officers across the Corporation.

Without wishing to rehearse my speech to Common Hall last week, it's been a heck of a year.

One hundred 'Knowledge Mile' lectures... 25 'Coffee Colloquies'... several science experiments... and our six key initiatives: Ethical AI, Space Protection, Smart Economy Networks, Constructing Science, Sustainable Finance, and GALENOS for mental health research.

The Latin prefix 'con-' means with, or together.

Over the course of this year we've demonstrated that the City can convene the right people... start the right conversations...

confront the key issues... and, ultimately, connect to proper.

So, congrats!

The great American author, Dr Seuss, famously said *“don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.”*

I assure you I’ll be handing over the baton to the Lord Mayor Elect, Alastair King, with the *biggest* smile on my face next month.

I know he will do an excellent job delivering his theme, ‘Growth Unleashed’... ably assisted by our new Sheriffs, Alderman Gregory Jones and David Chalk, who're here for their first Court of Common Council in office today.

Thank you.

## Mayoral Engagements

Honourable members.

I'd like to express my congratulations to the Chief Commoner-Elect, Henry Pollard.

Following the last Court which I attended in July I travelled to Sheffield with our late Sheriffs, where we were hosted by the Cutlers of Hallamshire... before attending the Olympic Games in Paris with the Policy Chairman.

Following the summer recess, I updated the Cambridge Economic Crime Symposium on what the Corporation is doing to tackle economic crime.

And, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September, Eurogroup President Paschal Donohoe delivered a keynote speech at Guildhall on the subject of financing our future.

Our first Pepys Day on 6<sup>th</sup> September - the day the Great Fire of London was finally put out after four days of destruction - was a roaring success.

Similarly, our first Thames Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> September went swimmingly... I hope both become yearly fixtures.

At the beginning of September, I travelled to Bermuda, Canada and Iceland.

The UK and Bermuda are two of the world's largest insurance centres, and my engagements focused on how we can collaborate further to complement each other's markets.

In Canada, I held discussions with major banks and officials to explore greater regulatory cooperation and approaches to AI.

Meanwhile, my trip to the 'land of fire and ice' focused on strengthening cooperation in AI, and creating new partnerships with Icelandic start-ups and financial institutions.

Having made it through the Bermuda triangle unscathed, I travelled to Vietnam - the first visit from a Lord Mayor in ten years - for a trip focused on how we can support the country's ambition to develop an International Finance Centre... before heading to Laos for a meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of September a record-breaking 603 City businesses helped us celebrate the biggest City Giving Day yet.

We welcomed our new Sheriffs on 27<sup>th</sup> September and my successor, Alastair King, was formally elected on 30<sup>th</sup> September... and I was delighted to see so many people wearing their 'Proud to be a Freeman' badges at Common Hall.

Trips to Latvia and Estonia and the Lady Mayoress' motherland, Germany, rounded out our visit schedule...

Estonia's innovative X-Road platform is revolutionising data exchange ...and I was delighted to use the trip to discuss my Smart Economy Networks Initiative.

Though, unfortunately, we just missed Oktoberfest, highlights from Germany include speaking at the Hamburg Sustainability Conference... an InsurTech Roundtable... and a tech and innovation-focused dinner.

There are still a few more exciting events to come in the next few weeks.

Tonight, Mansion House will play host to the City Festival of Music, Invention and Knowledge. And we will be treated to more amazing music on Tuesday with the London Symphony Orchestra Paganini Gala at Guildhall.

We still have three 'hardy annuals' to go before I hand over to the Lord Mayor Elect.

The Defence and Security Lecture on Monday...delivered by General Sir Jim Hockenhull, the Commander of UK Strategic Command, and kindly hosted by Alderman Vincent Keaveny.

The City Dinner with key stakeholders from the world of regulation on Thursday.

And Dinner to His Majesty's Judges on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

And we also have our Grand Finale - 'A Night at the Musicals', AKA the West End meets Guildhall - on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, which promises to be a fantastic evening, raising money for the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

Thank you.