

**Statement to Court of Common Council**  
**by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Vincent Keaveny**  
**Guildhall**  
**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to Court.

I hope you have taken the summer break to rest, ahead of what will be a very busy few months.

When I last addressed Court, we were one week away from breaking for August...

...and during that week I was very fortunate to conduct a regional visit to Leeds and Birmingham.

In Leeds, I spoke at roundtables focused on improving skills in the FPS sector, met with Leeds Council to understand how they are supporting this sector and discussed how we can form stronger regional links.

I also met with the Yorkshire Building Society, the UK Infrastructure Bank and received a full briefing on Leeds 2023, the cultural programme to build a strong and inclusive Leeds.

In Birmingham, I met with the West Midlands SuperTech cluster, the regional leaders in Fin, Law and Proptech, and spoke about how the City can support their already superb development.

I also met with Birmingham City Council to discuss their infrastructure development plans, met with Goldman Sachs had a positive engagement event with Financial Service leaders with the Mayor of West Midlands, Andy Street.

A particular highlight was attending the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony which was a fantastic display of the breadth and diversity of not just the Commonwealth but of the United Kingdom.

During August, too, I had a number of high-level engagements.

I visited Edinburgh for the formal opening of the Edinburgh Festival as a guest of the Lord Provost.

I was also fortunate enough to be invited onboard the HMS Queen Elizabeth in Portsmouth.

It is a breath-taking vessel, and it was inspiring to meet the men and women who work on it and reinforcing the military links between the City and the aircraft carrier, which keeps our country safe.

As I look forward to the weeks ahead, I know there are a lot of opportunities to showcase the full breadth and depth of the City of London...

...not least at my international visit to Australia, taking place next week...

...followed up by another visit to India.

I look forward to working with you all.

Thank you.