



All Party Parliamentary Group for London as a Global City

Palace of Westminster

Monday 6th December 2021

The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London

Alderman Vincent Keaveny

As the 693rd Lord Mayor of the City of London, I am delighted to support the inaugural reception of this APPG for London as a Global City.

Being a global city is what the success of the City of London is all about. In fact, we are so on-message that our website is “theglobalcity.uk”, I highly recommend it.

This underlines that being a global city is important not just for London, but indeed for the whole UK. It is not something we can ever take for granted.

We can be confident about London as a global city due to its outstanding strengths in finance, culture, innovation, education, talent. But never complacent.

The chief executive of Luxembourg for Finance observed last week that it is obvious that London is and will - for now - remain Europe's leading financial centre. This was echoed in my meetings during my visit this weekend to Madrid and Lisbon.

But the difference is we can no longer assume we will be the “automatic choice” for businesses to locate.

We have to compete for new business, not only with other centres in Europe but around the world.

This means we need to continually strengthen our competitiveness - ensuring we have the regulatory landscape, the securely funded transport infrastructure and the openness to people and talent which a global city requires.

Networks like this one help stakeholders from across the capital to unite around this message and work together to speak up for our city.

As Lord Mayor, it is part of my job to promote our global city around the globe, along with our Policy Chair, Catherine McGuinness.

I have just got back from my first overseas trip to Spain and Portugal, and next year – Covid restrictions permitting – I am planning on taking business delegations to markets in Asia, Africa and the Americas.

But we are not just promoting London, we are promoting London as a crucial selling point for the whole UK – because we know how vital it is to work with the rest of the country.

Since before 'levelling up' was even a slogan, the City of London has been cooperating closely with partner cities across the UK so we can support each other in boosting exports and attracting inward investment.

Recently I was in Northern Ireland with the Board of Trade, visiting Belfast and Londonderry. The Londonderry air was cold – but the Northern Irish welcome was as warm as ever, and I am about to visit Edinburgh and Glasgow.

We need to pull together so that London as a global city is part of the whole-UK offer as a global country.

Over my year in office, I will be focusing on 'People and Purpose' – partly about making sure the City is a place for everyone to succeed, whatever their social background.

And also about making sure we build on the City's contribution to tackling climate change through sustainable finance, and promote

London as a centre for impact investment – a global city with global responsibilities.

I would like to congratulate the team here on launching this APPG, we look forward to working with you through the exciting times ahead.

Thank you.