

Lady Mayor's update to the Court of Common Council
12th December 2025

Good afternoon, everyone.

I am *honoured* to be here at my very first Court of Common Council as your Lady Mayor.

I'd like to thank my predecessor, Alastair King, for the words of wisdom he and Florence have offered Gary and me.

My thanks, too, to all of *you* for your support in my first few weeks in office...

The role of the Lady Mayor is of course, not a ceremonial one, it is a business one.

As the ambassador for the UK's financial and professional services sector, over the next 12 months, I intend to *stand up* for the City and our businesses...not just in London, but across the UK.

I know, as head of the City of London Corporation, I have a real responsibility to work in partnership with government, industry and *all of you* on our shared ambition to keep the City competitive...to ensure it's a great place to live and work...and to *drive* much-needed economic growth, and the livelihoods that come with it.

That will involve convening key industry, government and other figures at Mansion House...the FPS sector's *embassy* in the heart of the capital...

One of the fundamental responsibilities of the Mayoralty is to represent the UK on the world stage...travelling with the express aim of increasing investment flows into London, as well as selling our skills and capabilities. With this in mind, I will be spending around 100 days overseas.

I had an early visit to Amsterdam, standing in for the Investment Minister at a meeting with Dutch investors responsible for £1.8 trillion of assets under management.

And on my first trip stateside, I met with a range of businesses who told me that the City was still a great place to invest, although we had more to do on simplifying regulation and scale up funding.

I'm now looking forward to attending the World Economic Forum in Davos...

You have heard me say that, in the UK, we are *very* good at saying what we're not good at, but very *bad* at shouting about the areas where we do excel. Which are many. And we have a responsibility to change that.

On 1st December, we welcomed the Prime Minister to Guildhall for the Lady Mayor's Banquet, where he spoke of the pressing need for the UK to face outward again - rebuilding our power, both hard and soft.

This City is at the heart of that mission...and, on the 4th of December, we put our soft power on show as we welcomed the President of Germany and the Princess Royal to Guildhall for the German State Banquet.

In my speech, I called on the UK and Germany to remove barriers to cross-border capital flows and find a way to work together on defence spending and secure our long-term security. Because, in these testing geopolitical times, defence transcends political and geographical borders.

We've made a great start - but, in the New Year, together, we need to be bolder: doing everything within our power to turn ambition into action, and connect capital with opportunity.

I hope the festive period gives us all the chance to rest and recharge, ready for the opportunities ahead. Thank you.