

**The Lady Mayor's update to the Court of Common Council**  
**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Good afternoon, everyone.

Though it is now the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, I think I still have time to say Happy New Year!

Please join me in giving a very warm City welcome to the volunteers from Talbot House in Belgium who have joined us today.

Talbot House was set up as a social club and rest hostel for all ranks of soldier in 1915...and the City has enjoyed strong links with the organisation ever since former Lord Mayor, Lord Wakefield, purchased and donated the home back to the group in 1929.

It's wonderful to see that connection going strong today; I hope you all enjoy your visit!

The New Year is, of course, a time for new beginnings...

Last week, we said goodbye to the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, as she leaves us to become the new Archbishop of Canterbury...

And, on Plow Monday, I hosted a fantastic group of City Corporation retirees at Mansion House, where we celebrated all they've done for our great City and its workers, residents and visitors.

In 2026, I have only one resolution: to do the best I can, working with others, to make the City thrive.

I'm sure you're a little tired of hearing me say, we need to "unsquare" the Square Mile, and show people they don't have to fit into a certain box to get on in the City...

Last week, I was pleased to help launch the 2026 Social Mobility List at an event at Mansion House, and surprised and proud to also find myself on it!

As well as connecting people with opportunities, as global ambassador for the FPS sector, my focus is, of course, on connecting *capital* with opportunity...

Yesterday, I attended an event focused on unlocking the potential of the UK private market...

Then I met with the Business Secretary, Peter Kyle, and discussed the need to contradict disinformation about the City...which is something I've also spoken about with the FT and to the Today programme...before joining a reception with business leaders.

Finally, I rounded the day off with a brilliant dinner with the Unicorn Council...a coalition of UK-based tech founders aiming to accelerate growth in the fintech sector...talking about how we can help companies scale.

Next week, Chris and I will travel to the World Economic Forum in Davos - a key opportunity to engage with international investors to promote investment into the UK.

I'll be speaking at an event alongside the Business Secretary and Investment Minister, where I'll spotlight City Corporation initiatives to unlock domestic capital and international co-investment, and help international firms set up and expand in the UK.

Tonight, we'll welcome key stakeholders including the Mayor of London and the Chair of London Councils to the City for the annual London Government Dinner...

- a chance to reaffirm the relationships that make our capital flourish.

Thank you.