

# Court of Common Council

Guildhall

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026

The Rt Hon The Lady Mayor of London  
Alderwoman Dame Susan Langley DBE

Good afternoon, everyone.

Before beginning, I want to pass on the thoughts of the entire City of London Corporation to those impacted by the ongoing military operations in the Middle East, including colleagues and members of our community with friends and loved ones in the region. As the Town Clerk set out earlier this week, the City Corporation will provide every possible support to colleagues affected.

Since my last update to this Court on 15<sup>th</sup> January, I've travelled to Davos for the World Economic Forum; China as part of the Prime Minister's 60-strong business and cultural delegation - the first such visit to take place in eight years; and to the US for the second time this mayoralty - on this occasion to Miami, Dallas, and Austin - the first time a Lord Mayor has visited these cities in a decade. Texas is now the largest financial services hub in the US, and were it a country, would be the eighth largest economy in the world - so it's vital that we engage with growing financial hubs like this, and not just New York and Silicon Valley.

On all of my visits abroad, most people have spoken highly of our FPS ecosystem - indeed, they are often more positive about our offering than we are ourselves. And while our appeal remains huge, our strengths undeniable, I've been shocked by the number of mistruths I've encountered.

Disinformation, largely around crime and promoted on social media, that undermines the work we do here in the City through cynical falsehoods. Perception is reality, which is why we all need to tackle disinformation about the City. On the one hand, that means looking at the ways we can take control of our own narrative, setting out the evidence clearly. And on the other, it means reassessing our own, very British reticence and modesty - not sugarcoating things, of course, but talking about everything we do so well with a revived confidence. We need to be prepared to lead and speak out on this, to sell our city - and I don't just mean here at the City Corporation, but across our businesses, in our wards, our liveries, and in the organisations we're involved in.

Elsewhere since my last update, we've made connections and reaffirmed friendships old and new at the London Government Dinner with the Mayor of London, Sir Sadiq Khan, and the Burns Night Supper with the First Minister of Scotland, John Swinney.

We've honoured centuries-old traditions like the Trial of the Pyx - held for the first time at Mansion House - while looking to the challenges of the future at the Airmic Risk Forum and the Japan Securities Summit.

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And we've seen the philanthropy and generosity of spirit that makes our city so unique, with a visit to Treloar's School earlier this week, and initiatives to support underserved and under-represented communities, including through the Lord Mayor's Appeal's *We Can Be* programme to help young women make informed career decisions.

I'm looking forward next week to International Women's Day, the second week of the London Careers Festival, and our City Insights Days which will connect young people to businesses here in the City. Thank you.