

*The Lord Mayor gave this update to Court of Common Council on Thursday 27th April 2023:*

I am sure the thoughts and prayers of the whole Court are with all those affected by the conflict in Sudan.

Since my last update, the City of London Corporation held our first Innovation and Technology dinner, where the Policy Chairman and I welcomed hundreds of guests from across UK tech industries to Mansion House – along with Michelle Donelan MP, the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology.

I launched the City of London Corporation's new report with EY on 'Powerful Pensions', with proposals for how defined-contribution pension schemes can invest in UK tech growth and help Finance Our Future.

I was very proud to host the first Financial Literacy and Inclusion summit at Mansion House, with participation from businesses, educational institutions and charities.

And I was delighted that we had the support of the City Minister, Andrew Griffith MP.

Before that, I was honoured to welcome Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, director-general of the World Trade Organisation, to the City of London for a discussion on the future of global trade.

Earlier this week, the City Corporation hosted high commissioners and ambassadors at Mansion House for the annual Easter Banquet, with the Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly MP.

I discussed the City of London Corporation's extensive international engagement on climate change and financing the transition to Net Zero, and I emphasised the restoration in confidence now that the UK's relationship with the EU has been restored to a more secure footing.

Yesterday I appeared before the Treasury Select Committee in a session discussing stock market listings.

I highlighted the City Corporation's work to identify and support measures to make listing in the UK more attractive, more convenient and more secure.

Last month, I visited India, holding discussions with business, regulators and government representatives in Mumbai and Delhi.

This included meeting Dr Shamika Ravi, the Prime Minister's economic advisor, and meeting the team negotiating a UK-India free trade agreement.

I spoke to many investors and highlighted the City's plans for a UK-India Infrastructure Conference in the summer.

Back in the UK, I visited Manchester, where I met Mayor Andy Burnham – we discussed how London and Manchester can support each other in attracting investment.

Last week, I travelled to the United States and Canada.

This included meeting green start-up firms and ESG investors in San Francisco, fintech businesses in Chicago, and asset managers in Toronto.

In all three cities, there was great enthusiasm for investing in London and using the City to enhance connections with markets across the world.

Immediately after last month's Court of Common Council, I - along with other City representatives - presented a loyal address on behalf of the City of London to His Majesty the King at Buckingham Palace.

In just over a week's time, I look forward to representing the City of London at the Coronation, attending the service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral on the day after, and taking part in coronation celebrations around the City.

I know this will be a proud, happy and glorious moment for the City, the capital and the country.

Thank you.