



Court of Common Council, 8th December 2022

Guildhall

The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London
Alderman Nicholas Lyons

Good afternoon, everyone.

I'm delighted to be making my first statement at Court as Lord Mayor!

I'd like to begin with a word of thanks first for the late Lord Mayor, Alderman Vincent Keaveny, for his leadership.

And a thank you to you all for the support you have given me –and particularly for the kindness you have shown to Felicity.

I received many words of wisdom from late Lord Mayor's before taking office, as you might imagine, but nothing could have truly prepared me for the whirlwind of the last four weeks.

I took up post with a new monarch on the throne for the first time in 70 years... and a new Prime Minister in Downing Street for the first time in - what - eight weeks.

We kicked off the year in fine fashion, with a fantastic Lord Mayor's Show.

The sun shone for us... and the chosen theme of "children, charity and community" shone through also.

It was wonderful to see many of you participating...thank you for helping make the day such a success, especially for all the young people involved.

In my second week as Lord Mayor, we held a banquet in honour of the South African President, Cyril Ramaphosa, here at Guildhall... which was special on several counts.

President Ramaphosa's was the first state visit in the reign of our new King, Charles III.

And, welcoming him to Guildhall, we revived a tradition not practiced since the Spanish state visit in 2017.

It was a fantastic evening...which highlighted the strength of the partnership between our two nations, and – very clearly – demonstrated the City's unique convening power.

We were all proud of the Remembrancer's team and the many members of staff who executed every aspect of the evening, faultlessly.

That convening power was illustrated again...days later...as places were set for the annual Lord Mayor's Banquet.

Speaking alongside the Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor and Archbishop of Canterbury, I set out my theme for the year ahead: *Financing our Future*.

Over the course of the year, I will focus on putting the City *back* where it belongs: at the heart of the economy.

At a time when the country most needs us to drive growth, create jobs and support investment.

So, I'll focus on long-term infrastructure lending.

Mobilising private savings and pension funds.

Leading the conversation on green finance.

And promoting financial literacy, so people can improve their mastery of money and - in turn - their prospects in life.

Key moments in the delivery of this theme will include:

Hosting, with the Policy Chairman, the 2023 Net Zero Delivery Summit.

And convening a Financial Inclusion Summit.

Since taking office, I've made two mayoral visits - to Northern Ireland and Wales - as part of the Corporation's UK Partnerships strategy.

In Belfast and Londonderry, the Policy Chairman and I met many fantastic start-up and scale-up businesses, and spoke to the British Irish Chamber of Commerce about channelling more capital into these businesses.

For the first time ever on a domestic mayoral visit, in Wales, I brought a delegation of London-based investors along with me and helped connect them with brilliant Welsh firms specialising in areas like insuretech, fintech and cyber.

We hosted High Commissioners and Commonwealth Ministers at a third Guildhall banquet in as many weeks.

In a few days, I'll head to New York for the first overseas trip of my mayoralty, where I'll engage with the senior leadership of key financial institutions and investors in the UK, as a significant statement of intent about the importance of the relationship between London and New York as global financial centres and the Global Investment Futures campaign.

Now, I know that the Policy Chairman will speak to this point, so I won't steal a march on him, but I do want to give my personal thanks to the Town Clerk, John Barradell.

John, I have hugely valued your wisdom and experience but especially your integrity.

You never fail to show respect for all of your colleagues in the Corporation.

You have loyally demonstrated the very essence of the City's motto: "Domine dirige nos."

I wish you well with whatever follows.