

# Court of Common Council

Guildhall

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025

The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London  
Alderman Alastair King

Good afternoon, everyone.

May I begin by warmly congratulating our newly-elected Sheriffs for 2025 to 2026, Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney and Keith Bottomley. Congratulations, both!

Shortly after we last met, I travelled to Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates - strengthening key ties with our Gulf partners at a time when global trade rules are being rewritten.

Back in London, I was delighted to attend the long-awaited reopening of Finsbury Circus Gardens, the Square Mile's largest public open space, and to take part in events showcasing the City's expertise in two key sectors, as part of London International Disputes Week and London Tech Week.

The Lady Mayoress and I took the City's livery Masters out of their comfort zone and northwards for the annual Livery Weekend in my motherland...Aberdeen. A braw time was had by all!

Easter came late this year, and we welcomed the Foreign Secretary to Mansion House for the annual gathering of London's international diplomatic community on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June.

We took the opportunity to think of all those affected by the Air India crash earlier that day...and I used my speech to highlight the City's status as a safe and neutral place to do business, and underline our continued commitment to open, fair, rules-based trade.

After the Easter Banquet, I travelled to Finland and Sweden to discuss opportunities for further cooperation in financial services at what is a critical time for European relations.

I have adopted the word Finns use to describe their national character, Sisu - which translates as stoic determination, tenacity of purpose, grit, bravery, resilience, and hardiness - as my motto this year as it defines my mayoral theme, *Growth Unleashed*, so well.

Another definition for Sisu is "*the empowering push when we would otherwise hesitate to act*", and, ahead of the Financial and Professional Services Dinner on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, I am continuing to drum up support for the Employer Pension Pledge...a key employer-led commitment that complements the Mansion House Accord.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, we put the City's green finance leadership on display with another hugely successful Net Zero Delivery Summit.

This afternoon we will be joined by sporting royalty as Olympian Sir Chris Hoy and his wife, Lady Hoy, Sarra Kemp, are due to receive the Freedom of the City of London.

Tomorrow, I will be trying my very best to emulate Sir Chris' sporting prowess as I take part in the inaugural Lord Mayor's Cup in aid of the Lord Mayor's Appeal...though my years as a supporter of Tottenham Hotspur have taught me to manage my expectations.

Next week we will welcome some of the United Kingdom's best high-growth tech start-ups to Mansion House, where they will pitch directly to major domestic investors as part of our Scale-up Showcase series.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, we have the honour of hosting the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, here at Guildhall during his state visit to the United Kingdom...and, as I have mentioned, the following week will see the Chancellor return to Mansion House for her second Financial and Professional Services Dinner.

Thank you.