

**The Lord Mayor's update to the Court of Common Council,
Guildhall, Thursday 9th October 2025**

Response to Vote of Thanks

Thank you all for that very kind "Vote of Thanks".

It is an incredible privilege to have served as the 696th Lord Mayor of London...

My thanks go to all of you for the support you have given me as I have pursued my theme, "*Growth Unleashed*"...a call for the City to be bolder, think smarter, and take off the handbrake...

...reigniting the City's appetite for risk-taking, seizing our national edge in innovation, and embracing the Square Mile's many communities to drive growth.

I could not be more grateful to you, to the Sheriffs, to the Lady Mayoress, the Representative Lady Mayoress, and all the hard-working officers across the Corporation.

Without wishing to rehearse my speech to Common Hall last week, it has been a momentous year...

We have made incredible strides to change the United Kingdom's pension investment culture through the Mansion House Accord...the Employee Pension Pledge...and the CISI Educative Plan...

Last week's Global Investment Summit in Scotland was a real triumph: bringing investors and opportunity together to turbocharge Scottish innovation.

Our City Belonging Networks are also something to be proud of. We now have ten networks dedicated to supporting various communities across the City: drawing people closer in an increasingly divided world.

In his narrative poem, "*The Lady of the Lake*", Scottish writer Sir Walter Scott speaks of an inspiring leader who - though afflicted by the *horrible blight* of middle age - possesses the passion and honesty of youth...

"The will to do, the soul to dare".

I said at the start of my tenure that this would be a high energy mayoralty...that I would be cheerleader-in-chief for the United Kingdom's financial and professional services sector...

Reminding the world - and the Square Mile itself - of the City's prowess and power. Conveying the message that, whatever people want to do, they can do it in London.

Time will tell whether we have had the necessary impact...

However, I know that - with the support of the new Sheriffs, Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney and Deputy Keith Bottomley - the Lady Mayor Elect Sue Langley...the first of her name!...will carry on that work with aplomb.

It has been an incredible honour to serve you. Thank you.

Mayoral engagements

Thank you.

Much has happened since July, when I last updated the Court, so my final mayoral update will be a bumper one!

On the third of September, we hosted the then Science, Innovation and Technology Secretary Peter Kyle for the annual Innovation & Tech Dinner.

I set out how "*Growth Unleashed*" encourages British firms to embrace the white heat of technology to gain a competitive edge...

...and how we are ensuring our innovators get the financial firepower they need to grow through our hugely successful Scale Up Showcases.

In early September, I had a productive visit to China, Singapore, Japan and Vietnam.

In Tokyo, I signed a refreshed Memorandum of Understanding between our two great financial centres - building on the successes we have had since signing the first Memorandum in 2017.

In Vietnam, I spoke at a key conference on how the City can support the creation of International Financial Centres in Ho Chi Minh and Danang...

...and I visited British University Vietnam to see progress made since the signing of an MoU with City St George's, University of London last year.

On the 17th of September, I had the honour of representing the City at the State Banquet hosted by Their Majesties the King and Queen in honour of the President of the United States at Windsor Castle.

City Giving Day on the 23rd of September was a fantastic display of philanthropy as always, with over 600 companies participating: more than ever before.

On the 25th of September, we brought leading family offices, wealth managers and investors together to discuss the future of private capital at the inaugural Family Office Summit at Mansion House.

We welcomed our new Sheriffs on the 26th September and my successor, Dame Sue Langley, was formally elected the following Monday.

Fresh from the bruising reminder that my tenure as Lord Mayor is nearly over, on the 30th of September, I had a sparring session with three-time world heavyweight champion of the world, Lennox Lewis.

Luckily for Lennox, I went easy on him...preferring to save my fighting spirit for the “*Growth Unleashed*” agenda.

From a makeshift boxing ring in the Old Ballroom to a land with a reputation for solving arguments in a calm, peaceable way...my native Scotland.

A high-stakes play to put Scotland’s most dynamic industries at the top of investors’ agendas, Scotland’s Global Investment Summit attracted some of the most influential institutions in the financial and energy sectors...

...as well as a delegation of international investors, including representatives from leading Saudi Arabian and Japanese investment institutions.

I am incredibly pleased with how the conference went, and grateful to Scottish Financial Enterprise for their support.

Last week, to coincide with Black History Month, we launched our *tenth* City Belonging Network, “Black in the Square Mile”, at a joyous event at Guildhall.

There are still a few more exciting events to come in the next few weeks.

I will be attending the Regional Investment Summit in Birmingham...

The Secretary of State for Defence will be making the annual Defence & Security Lecture...

We will welcome the regulators to Mansion House for the City Dinner...

I will be making my final visit of the mayoralty to the Gulf...

And we will end the mayoralty on a high with the Lord Mayor’s Appeal Grand Finale - the Lord Mayor’s Last Laugh, with Alexander Armstrong - on the 5th of November. Thank you.