

Court of Common Council

Thursday 16th June 2022

Item 4: Mayoral Engagements

Good afternoon to everyone here and all those watching online.

I hope you are enjoying the good weather – especially if you *are* watching online.

Since the last Court, I was delighted to finally launch Progress Together, the new membership body to promote socio-economic diversity in financial services.

This is the first group of its kind, and it forms a major part of my work to promote *People and Purpose* in the City.

I look forward to chairing Progress Together in the months ahead and making sure we improve the prospects for progression for all in financial services, regardless of background.

I also welcomed colleagues from across the London boroughs and the Greater London Authority to Mansion House for the London Government Dinner - the first time we have been able to host this since before the pandemic.

The Mayor of London, the Chair of London Councils and I all delivered a firm message on the importance of London being included in the 'levelling up' agenda rather than held back by it, and on how a strong and successful London is vital for a strong UK.

Last month, I travelled to Davos, where I was joined by the Policy Chairman, to take part in the World Economic Forum, where we discussed the City's work to drive international collaboration in sustainable finance.

I also visited Poland, where I visited a refugee centre for people who had been displaced by the war in neighbouring Ukraine.

I reiterated the City of London's support for Ukraine and I encourage everyone here to continue to be generous in our help and firm in our solidarity.

Over the next month, I look forward to visiting Indonesia, Japan, the United States and Canada to build on our links with those key financial and professional services markets.

I am also excited to be hosting the Finance for Impact Summit at Mansion House on 18th July, where the City will be working with the Impact Investing Institute and KPMG.

Bringing together leaders of finance, governments, and businesses from around the world to discuss how we can better harness investment for the good of society and the planet, this will be another important step forward in the *People and Purpose* agenda.

Tomorrow, I look forward to attending the Thomas Becket Pageant in Guildhall Yard – a great celebration of City history including the new musical, *'London's Turbulent Son'*, taking place tomorrow and on Saturday.

Two weeks ago, I had the great honour of taking part in the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

This included welcoming the Royal Family to St Paul's Cathedral for the national service of thanksgiving and then welcoming the Royal Family and other guests here to Guildhall for the reception afterwards.

As the 693rd person to hold the office of Lord Mayor, it is not often I experience something which is truly unprecedented and unique, but this was such an occasion.

I would like to thank City of London staff, fellow Members, and volunteers for your fantastic support and hard work in making this event such a success and in showing the City at its very best.

Thank you.