

***The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli's update to  
the Court of Common Council – January 11 2024***

Good afternoon and Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and rang 2024 in in style.

Just before the festive break, the Policy Chairman and I headed to the US to establish the Corporation's presence stateside...a move that will bolster the strong ties we already enjoy with our friends across the pond.

And we were delighted to link up with NY-based liverymen for a coffee and chat...repeating a successful "Livery Coffee Connect-Teas" format started in Dubai.

Back in London, on the 14th I hosted a "meet the neighbours" event to create connections with organisations and businesses surrounding Mansion House, including the Ned, the Bank of England and the Royal Exchange...

And we celebrated the festive season and incredibly hard work of staff across the Corporation with the annual Christmas lunches at Guildhall and Mansion House.

We started the year as we mean to go on, with an incredibly busy schedule of domestic engagements and international travel.

Yesterday, I talked about the need to preserve our precious biodiversity at lunch with the Wax Chandlers...and I hope you saw the Pollinating London Together exhibition in the Ambulatory on your way in.

Tonight, we'll host London government leaders including the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, and the Chair of London Councils, Councillor Georgia Gould, for the annual London Government Dinner.

On Monday, Chris and I will head to the World Economic Forum in Davos, where we'll promote the City's strengths in areas like AI and "transition finance", and bolster our links with international stakeholders...

...for example, by hosting a roundtable discussion on the steps we need to take to improve the UK's growth, prosperity and international competitiveness, which will be attended by the Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt.

A few days later, I'll travel to Ireland where I'll meet with senior government officials and representatives from key financial and professional services firms and big tech companies.

I'll chair roundtable discussions at universities, and deliver a keynote address at a British Irish Chamber of Commerce event.

Back in London, on 29 January I'll welcome the First Minister of Scotland, Humza Yousaf, to Mansion House for a Burns Night Supper.

Finally, we'll round off the month with the fabulous Livery Academy Awards...a prime example of the huge impact the livery has in supporting education and innovation in business.

Against this backdrop, our core "Connect To Prosper" initiatives continue to gather pace...

We've delivered 10 Knowledge Miles lectures so far, with 31 scheduled.

The inaugural Coffee Colloquy on the challenge of space debris was a huge success, with 16 more in the diary.

More than 2,000 students from 220 organisations across the globe have signed up for the 695<sup>th</sup> Lord Mayor's Ethical AI Initiative.

And more than 20 businesses are participating in the Smart Economy Networks Initiative.

I've taken part in nearly 50 media engagements and made 66 speeches to over 11,000 people – and counting!

The livery LinkedIn community has risen to over 1,000 members in a matter of weeks, and companies are enthusiastic about the "Livery Experience" initiative to bring new people into the community.

Two months in, the feedback I've received about the capital during my travels and engagements has been *overwhelmingly* positive.

We already have the ingredients of success: a leading global centre with unparalleled connections, top talent, a world-class legal system and some of the world's most exciting start-ups.

I am confident that...as we "Connect To Prosper" and harness those strengths...2024 will be a year of positive change for our capital.

To quote Thomas Jefferson, "I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past." Thank you.