

Court of Common Council

The Great Hall, Guildhall
1pm, Thursday 7th March 2024
The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London
Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli

Good afternoon, everyone.

On January 11th the Policy Chairman and I hosted London government leaders for the annual London Government Dinner...

...and, at the end of the month, we welcomed the First Minister of Scotland, Humza Yousaf, to Mansion House -- with me piping him in on my bagpipes to celebrate the ties between our financial and professional services sectors.

In January, I was given an honorary Doctor of Science and installed as rector of City, University of London...we hosted the tenth Livery Academy Awards...and appointed the inaugural Lord Mayor's Fellow, Katrin Hohl, who'll work on research aligned with the Lady Mayoress' theme of preventing violence against women and girls.

The Policy Chairman and I represented the Corporation at the World Economic Forum in Davos, and I travelled to Ireland to meet with senior government officials and key business leaders.

In India, I visited the political capital, Delhi, the financial capital, Mumbai, and the educational capital, Pune for discussions on London's strengths in FPS, science and tech, education and AI.

My most recent trip -- to the US -- took in Hartford, Connecticut, as well as the city of my birth, Seattle, and the city where I was educated, Boston...but our motivation for visiting was a thirst for *innovation*, not nostalgia!

Alongside the Corporation's new US MD, Ed Price, we met with key tech and business stakeholders and toured the Blue Origin facilities and the Microsoft campus.

Our "Connect To Prosper" initiatives are continuing to gather pace...

I handed out the first certificate for completion of the 695th Lord Mayor's Ethical AI Initiative in Dubai in December, and, tomorrow, we welcome 40 tech and finance professionals to Mansion House for our first certificate ceremony.

The Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment course currently has more than 3,000 participants from 250 organisations across 45 countries...while the BCS course launched March 1st, with 672 individuals pre-registered.

A total of 30 Knowledge Miles lectures have been delivered, with 25 more in the pipeline.

And we've held five coffee colloquies - the most recent of which focused on "Gender Equality" ahead of International Women's Day tomorrow - with 20 more to come.

On March 15th the National Physical Laboratory is holding an event at Horizon 22 to present the findings from the first "Connect To Prosper" experiment: a time dilation demonstration inspired by Einstein's theory of relativity.

On Sunday, I'll highlight the importance of inter-sector and international cooperation in tackling new forms of fraud at the Global Fraud Summit...before travelling to China for a visit focused on green finance.

Just shy of four months into my mayoralty and "Connect To Prosper" has really come into its own. Our initiatives are well-established, and the message is getting through.

That is thanks, in no small part, to the support the Council has offered.

To quote Einstein - which feels appropriate ahead of British Science Week - *"to raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle requires **creative imagination**"*.

I look forward to seeing what more we can achieve when we tap into our collective imagination and think creatively.
Thank you.