

Response to the “Vote of Thanks”

Marianne. Thank you all for that very kind “Vote of Thanks”, which is much appreciated.

It has been an enormous honour to be your Lord Mayor this past year.

My thanks go to you all for the support you have given me...alongside everyone else at the Corporation...as I have pursued my theme, “Financing our Future.”

In an extraordinarily busy year with many policy initiatives and a full international agenda, an enormous strain is placed on officers in the Mansion House and the Guildhall.

They have responded magnificently. We are fortunate indeed to have such capable and hardworking colleagues.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Town Clerk on his excellent start; and to pay tribute to our redoubtable Remembrancer, who steps down shortly.

Paul, you have been a remarkable colleague and we owe you a huge debt of gratitude.

I thank all of the High Officers for their leadership and support.

I'll continue to promote “Financing our Future” when I'm back in my civvies...but I'm also looking forward to spending time in Norfolk once more. My dogs will be pleased to see me.

Finally -- I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Lady Mayoress, Felicity, for her infinite patience, love and support over the last year.

It is a debt I know I will struggle to repay...but I'll give it a good try!

And so, it is with a full rather than a heavy heart that I will pass the baton over to the Lord Mayor Elect, Michael Mainelli, in November.

I know he will do an excellent job delivering his theme, “Connect to Prosper” ...

...ably assisted by our new Sheriffs, Alderwoman Sue Langley and Alderman Bronek Masojada -- who're here for their first Court of Common Council in office today. Thank you.

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Mayoral Engagements

Honourable Members. Immediately after our last meeting, the Policy Chairman and I launched Vision for Economic Growth...

...our long-term strategy to ensure the UK’s world-leading financial and professional services sector can keep driving economic growth and remain internationally competitive in the years to come.

At the beginning of September I attended the annual gathering of the insurance industry - the Rendez Vous de Septembre - in Monaco.

...before making the second visit of my mayoralty to Hong Kong and mainland China, where I gave a speech at the Bund Summit on the role of sustainable finance in tackling climate change.

The 26th of September was City Giving Day.

The civic team and I had a *brilliant* day visiting participating companies. And I’m delighted to say that a record 563 businesses took part this year.

Continuing the charity theme, it was incredible to see off the convoy of taxis taking sick children on the trip of a lifetime to Disneyland Paris, for the annual Hackney Carriage Drivers’ Magical Taxi Tour.

At the end of September, I visited Bahrain and Qatar for the last international visit of my mayoralty.

I was honoured to meet with His Majesty the King of Bahrain and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain, following on from the Crown Prince's visit to Mansion House in July.

In Qatar, I attended the opening of the Doha International Expo 2023 and spoke at a London Stock Exchange Regulatory Summit...

...and I also had bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and the CEO of the Qatar Investment Authority.

Closer to home --

Last week, I attended a dinner hosted by the Archbishop of Canterbury...where I was pleased to launch the recommendations from the Financial Literacy and Inclusion Steering Group for a programme of actions to improve financial literacy, inclusion and numeracy in the UK.

On Monday, I hosted the final Dragon Awards...

...which was a celebration of the 2023 winners, of course, but also a time to reflect on everything the Awards have achieved.

Thirty-six years since their launch, and social impact in business is no longer an exception but an expectation...and everyone involved can be incredibly proud of the role they've played.

On Monday, I'll host the annual "City Dinner" with key stakeholders from the world of regulation.

And on Tuesday, the London Market insurance sector holds its biannual dinner in honour of the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

The following week, I'll head to the UK's second city - Birmingham - for my final visit.

And, that evening - the 24th of October - the Lady Mayoress will host a fabulous "Musical Feast" at Mansion House...

...with performances by an array of incredible charities and organisations -- all focused on supporting musical education for all.

And the Grand Finale dinner will take place on November 2nd. Thank you.