

January 2020



MEMBERS' BRIEFING

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LORD MAYOR

Overseas Visit to the US and Mexico

From 9-18 December, the Lord Mayor made the first overseas visit of his Mayoralty, to the West Coast of the United States and to Mexico, building on the momentum of a similar visit in the previous Mayoralty. In San Francisco the Lord Mayor was accompanied by a business delegation representing the fintech sector in the UK, particularly those at an early stage of development. The Lord Mayor's activity focussed on promoting the City Corporation's US Venture Capital campaign, which seeks to drive greater levels of US investment in UK fintechs. The visit enabled both the City Corporation and the business delegates to build relationships with key investors on the West Coast, as well as promoting the strength of the UK tech sector more broadly. In Mexico City, the Lord Mayor's meetings also focussed on fintech, with a particular emphasis on how innovation can drive financial inclusion, as well as on sustainable finance. Meetings with the new Minister of Finance and the Governor of the Central Bank looked ahead to the UK-Mexico High-Level Economic Talks and Mexico Day, taking place in London in March.

Regional visit to Birmingham

On 8 January, the Lord Mayor undertook the first mayoral visit to Birmingham to boost business ties between the West Midlands and the City of London. The programme fostered closer relationships with Birmingham's burgeoning financial and professional services sector; the largest regional cluster outside London, with over 4,300 companies employing over 50,000 people. Birmingham is a key city in the City Corporation's UK strategy, which is helping to increase inward investment and build awareness of how London can act as a global gateway for local firms to export their products and services. During the visit, the Lord Mayor met the Mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street, the West Midlands Growth Company, HSBC as well as budding entrepreneurs and businesses that are at the heart of the city's success. The Lord Mayor also met Ian Reid, CEO of the 2022 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee.

Lord Mayor's Annual Gresham Lecture

The 2020 Lord Mayor's Gresham Lecture took place on 9 January and focused on the value of culture for the City of London. The Lord Mayor outlined the current skills gap between employers seeking fusion skills and the limited numbers in the workforce that are equipped with these skills. The Lord Mayor also used the lecture to highlight the significant social and economic impact of culture on the City, London and the UK, emphasising the connectivity between trade, innovation and culture; the theme of his Mayoralty.

Overseas Visit to Abu Dhabi

The Lord Mayor's first overseas visit of 2020 was to Abu Dhabi, from 13-15 January. This was an opportunity, ahead of the Lord Mayor's annual visit to the Gulf in February and his participation in the World Economic Forum in Davos, to take forward discussions with the financial professional services sector and sovereign wealth funds, on two-way investment between the UK and the UAE, identify areas for collaboration and investment opportunities within the City, and promote the UK's strengths in sustainable (green) finance. Throughout the programme, the Lord Mayor was accompanied by Patrick Moody, the British Ambassador to the UAE and Simon Penney, HM Trade Commissioner for the Middle East. Coinciding with Abu Dhabi's Sustainability Week, a key focus of the visit was sustainable (green) finance. The Lord Mayor met Emirati leaders in this space, where he learned of current projects and initiatives, such as Smart Cities, green and transition bonds, and developments in the renewable energy sector. Discussions focussed not only on the investment opportunities in the sustainability sector, but also the necessity of transferring to a zero-carbon economy. One of the key features of the Lord Mayor's programme was his keynote address at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Forum, where he promoted the City's strengths in the area of green finance with initiatives such as the Green Finance Institute. The Lord Mayor also touched on the November UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in Glasgow, noting that further action is needed in the years ahead.

London Government Dinner

On 16 January 300 guests attended the London Government Dinner. The Lord Mayor hosted the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan alongside the Chair of London Councils - Councillor Peter John and London Borough Mayors, with representative bodies concerned with the government and administration of London. The dinner highlighted the cooperation and collaboration between London's institutions. During his speech the Lord Mayor reflected on the significance of the new decade beginning with an exit from the European Union, and stressed the need to ensure the sustainability agenda in London was fully supported. This would be particularly impactful in the context of COP26 taking place in the UK in November. These sentiments were also echoed in the Mayor of London's speech. The London Government Dinner, described by the Mayor of London's office as 'the biggest set-piece speech of the year', also saw Mr Khan emphasise London as a global leader in finance, and also equality and diversity.

Contact [Chloe Waterman](#) on 2676 or [Yasmin Malik](#) on 2614

CHIEF COMMONER

During January the Chief Commoner attended the following functions:

- The Lord Mayor's Annual Gresham Lecture on 9 January at Guildhall on "The City of London – Culture, Creativity and the Culture Mile". This was followed by a reception in the Livery Hall;
- The Lord Mayor's Children's Party at the Mansion House on 11 January;
- The Poulterers' Company Court Luncheon at Armourers' Hall on 14 January;
- The London Government Dinner at the Mansion House on 16 January at which the principal guests were the Mayor of London and the Chairman of London Councils;
- The Investment Committee Dinner at the Mansion House on 22 January at which the principal guest was Sarah Gordon, CEO of the Impact Investing Institute. The service of Andrew McMurtrie, Immediate Past Chairman of the Investment Committee and long-serving Past Chairman of the Financial Investment Board was also applauded
- The Police Authority Board Dinner at the Honourable Artillery Company on 23 January at which the principal guests were Sir Stephen House (Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police), Sir Tom Winsor (Chief Inspector of Constabulary), Sir Richard Heaton (Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice) and several chief constables and senior representatives of the fire and ambulance services;
- Act of Remembrance and Wreath-laying Ceremony on 27 January at the Holocaust Memorial at the Imperial War Museum Park;
- UK Sport, British Olympic Association and British Paralympic Association Seminar and Reception at Guildhall on 27 January attended by Dame Katherine Grainger (Chair of UK Sport), Sir Hugh Robertson (Chair of the British Olympic Association), Geoff Newton (Vice-Chair of the British Paralympic Association) and Etienne Thobois, (CEO of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games);
- The Grand Final of the Livery Academy Awards Competition and Dinner hosted by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House on 27 January;
- The Port Health and Environmental Services Committee Dinner at Butchers' Hall at which the principal guest was James Leeson of DP World London Gateway;
- Civic Dinner hosted by the Remembrancer and the Chief Commoner in the Chief Commoner's Parlour;
- Dinner at Guildhall to mark the retirement of the Rt Hon Mark Field who for 18 years served as MP for the Cities of London and Westminster, and most recently as Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Tom Hoffman

Contact [Devika Persaud](#) on ext. 3460

CHAIR OF POLICY & RESOURCES

Labour Business Annual Dinner with the Mayor of London

On 10 December the Policy Chair represented the City of London Corporation at a dinner hosted by Labour Business, the group affiliated to the Labour Party. The dinner was a good opportunity to engage with senior Labour officials, representatives, affiliates and senior business representatives on Labour's economic policies, relaying the views of business and building relationships for future engagement and cooperation. Speakers at the dinner included Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London), Frances O'Grady (General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress) and Councillor Georgia Gould (Leader of Camden Council).

Contact [Colton Richards](#) on ext. 1357

Lawtech Sounding Board

On 17 December, the Policy Chair led the quarterly session of the Lawtech Sounding Board. The board is a cross-sector forum for the legal and technology communities, where members explore and undertake activity to drive innovation in the legal sector. A key theme at the plenary was future trends in legal service delivery. This included a discussion with TechNation about how the Sounding Board could provide industry insight to the government's Lawtech Delivery Panel. It also included a discussion with Nesta, a global innovation foundation, on how its Legal Access Challenge is opening legal services to individuals and SMEs. The Lawtech Sounding Board has established two working groups with a view to enhancing the UK's position as a leader in legal services technology and innovation. The first is an innovation working group aimed at furthering adoption of legal technology. This group considers how to train lawyers to think creatively about using technology and how to better enable technology providers to build solution-based products. The second is an infrastructure working group which looks at cloud technology and any barriers to its adoption.

Contact [Mary Kyle](#)

Lunch for the Netherlands Ambassador to the UK

On 7 January the Policy Chair hosted a lunch for H.E. Simon Smits, the Netherlands Ambassador, along with representatives from industry. The topics that were discussed included the future relationship between the UK and the Netherlands due to similarly aligned perspectives on many key issues including open markets. Some scepticism was highlighted concerning the UK's zero tariffs promise and the risks of a no-deal. The global challenge of Capital Markets Union (CMU) was also discussed resulting in an agreement to create a high-level forum, if CMU remains an outward-looking project and any policy actions are evidence-based. Sustainable finance, specifically green, was discussed too. Lastly, it was agreed that better cooperation was needed between Fintechs and established players as well as the need for regulatory change.

Contact [Kerstin Mathias](#) on ext. 3376

Briefing on markets co-location with London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

On 7 January the Policy Chair briefed the leader of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Cllr Darren Rodwell, his cabinet colleagues, the boroughs' Chief Executive and the Managing Director of Be First, on the Markets Consolidation Programme. The aim of the meeting was to update all parties on the programme to co-locate the wholesale markets to the new site in Dagenham Dock. Leaders from the borough reaffirmed their support of the programme and were interested to discuss transport, particularly the A13 as well as education and training, sustainability and retail markets in the borough.

Contact [Gary Webb](#) on ext. 2285

Roundtable lunch with Association of India Banks (AIB) ahead of India Visit

The Policy Chair led a roundtable with AIB on 8 January, which acted as a pre-briefing before her visit to India. The AIB consists of the CEOs of the Indian Banks in London and the Managing Director of Thomas Lloyd was also invited. They discussed Brexit concerns, the latest on the Indian economy, messages for the market and comments on her visit plan. The concept of corporate treasury centres and various City initiatives including Cyber Griffin, Heart of the City and the Lord Mayor's Show were also raised.

Contact [Amar Mistry](#) on ext. 1753

Lunch for the Polish Ambassador to the UK

On 14 January, the Policy Chair hosted a lunch for H.E. Arkady Rzegocki, the Ambassador of Poland, attended by a representation from across the industry. The Ambassador's opening remarks focused on the future relationship, confirming Poland's commitment to working closely with the UK to find the best possible future relationship. This was followed by a discussion on Capital Markets Union (CMU), stressing that the Polish government has adopted a strategy to make the local capital market more efficient, to develop the market infrastructure and to introduce new products and services. City representatives stressed the need to avoid fragmentation of financial markets. FinTech was also deliberated, due to Poland working with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Commission on innovative technological solutions, including building a regulatory sandbox. Last on the agenda was Green Finance. City representatives highlighted the need for reliable data from issuers in order to make the right investment decisions and that there are too many different reporting standards that firms need to follow.

Contact [Corinna Williams](#) on ext. 3450

Any Member wishing to know our policy position on any subject can contact the Director of Communications [Bob Roberts](#) or the Head of Corporate Affairs [Eugenie de Naurois](#).

PARLIAMENTARY/GLA

EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill

The EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill has been given Royal Assent ahead of the UK's formal departure from the EU on 31 January. The Bill was unamended, despite concerns raised by Sir Bob Neill and others in both Houses over a clause that enables ministers to make regulations permitting lower courts to depart from retained EU caselaw post-Brexit. This is a significant departure from the usual rules on legal precedent.

Queen's Speech - economy and jobs

The concluding day of the House of Commons debate on The Queen's Speech focused on the government's economic and jobs agenda. On financial and professional services, the Chancellor promised to "secure and enhance the success of the industry" through the introduction of a new financial services Bill. The SNP's new Treasury spokesperson, Alison Thewliss, emphasised the importance of mutual recognition of qualifications to the FPS sector. This was a view shared by the co-chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on London Sir Bob Neill, who hoped that British lawyers could continue the "fly-in, fly-out service that they provide for many of the multinational firms in Europe [...] without the need for requalification." Referencing the positions of the City Corporation and the Bank of England, Neill noted that current equivalence arrangements were "not satisfactory for the longer term," and called for a more ambitious deal to provide certainty. The former Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Harriet Baldwin, wanted clarity on what the front bench meant by "outcome-based equivalence," and what its strategy was for market access for businesses in the fintech sector.

Music and the Economy

Conor McGinn (Lab) led a short debate in the Commons examining the contribution of music to the economy. Citing a report from UK Music, McGinn said that the music industry contributed £5 billion to the UK economy and employed 200,000 people. Despite this success, McGinn highlighted challenges such as the talent pipeline, which is an issue that Guildhall School has previously expressed concern over. He also raised concern over the effect of Brexit on the music industry, specifically restrictions on free movement which could affect touring. This is a concern the City Corporation has voiced on behalf of the Barbican. McGinn argued for a passporting arrangement so that musicians could continue to perform with minimum disruption post-Brexit. Responding for the Government, Culture Minister Nigel Adams said the Government was revising the national plan for music education and visa rules for artists performing in the EU would not change during the implementation period. He said, "It is essential that free movement is protected for artists post 2020."

London Plan

The London Assembly's Planning Committee took evidence from Deputy Mayor for Planning Jules Pipe and City Hall officials on the draft London Plan, which has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for approval. Asked when the Mayor expected to have the Housing Secretary's response, and when he hoped to publish the final version of the Plan, Pipe said that a response was expected by 17 February, and that it was hoped a final version would be published by 20 March. Supplementary planning guidance, including on density and tall buildings, will be issued from the Spring to help boroughs implement the Plan.

London Assembly - impact on financial services

Policy Chair Catherine McGuinness appeared alongside the CBI's Nicole Sykes and Clifford Chance's Chris Bates to give evidence to the GLA's EU Exit Working Group on the impact of Brexit on the financial services sector. Asked about future arrangements, the Policy Chair emphasised the need for certainty, which could not be delivered solely by equivalence, as well as the need for a close, yet autonomous, regulatory relationship. Bates explained how equivalence would not replicate the current benefits and privileges conferred by passporting arrangements. Sykes raised the in-market barriers that could pose challenges to doing business without the ability to passport services, as well as the need for any future agreement to cover workforce mobility and data transfers. On regulation, the Policy Chair noted that the UK could hope for an influential voice in EU regulation, but would not be able to shape it. Bates said that cooperation on future regulation would require "a high degree of trust." He noted that there was no direct formal framework for discussions between UK and EU regulators. The Policy Chair highlighted the role that the sector itself could play in strengthening regulatory relationships. Asked about the movement of business and jobs away from London, Bates noted that the movement had been less than expected. Inertia had prevented some bodies from moving, as well as the costs of setting up subsidiaries. The Policy Chair, while acknowledging London's attractiveness as a place to live and do business, nonetheless expressed the belief that some business would be lost elsewhere as Brexit took effect. Sykes discussed the consequences of the diminution of the UK's financial services sector. The Policy Chair, citing the recent publication of the City Corporation's total tax contribution report, said that the Exchequer could suffer from Brexit. On the sector's asks regarding Brexit, the Policy Chair said there was no appetite for deregulation, though opinions overall in the sector differed as to what was needed in the future. The City Corporation would work with the sector to ensure a consistent message, she said.

Contact [James Edwards](#) on ext. 1202

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity Charter

The City of London Corporation is determined to improve the diversity of its elected membership and is committed to becoming more inclusive and representative of the communities that it serves in the Square Mile and beyond. The Members' Diversity Working Party is leading this work and working with the City Corporation to enhance the diversity of the Court of Common Council. In March last year it was agreed that the City Corporation introduces aspirations for enhancing the diversity of candidates standing for the 2021 election to 30% female and 15% BAME. It is also determined to ensure there are no barriers to any member of our community standing for elected office to the City Corporation. With this in mind, a voluntary [Diversity Charter](#) has been introduced for elected Members to sign up to, to publicly show commitment and help drive the debate internally on diversity and inclusion. We recognise that there is much more to do and will be taking further steps to encourage a diverse range of candidates for City elections. This is a major focus for the City Corporation and will build on initiatives in recent years to engage more people in the City's democratic processes.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training for all Common Councillors

On 2 March 2020, a bespoke session for Members will be delivered by the City Corporation's Diversity and Engagement Lead Officer and Learning and Development Trainer. The session will include a presentation about unconscious and conscious bias, and utilise a new and exciting tool called "Equally Yours". This is an interactive approach to building understanding and confidence around diversity and inclusion. During this session, Members will reflect on relevant legislation and policy; consider the impact of people's perceptions and behaviour on individuals; and build a deeper understanding of diversity and inclusion and how this applies in your role as elected Members. The session will start promptly at 12.30pm and will conclude no later than 2.30pm. It will take place in Committee Rooms 3 and 4, West Wing, Guildhall. A light buffet lunch will be available in the Committee Rooms from 12 noon. RSVPs are required by those Members wishing to attend. If you would like to attend, please email [Kerry Nicholls](#) by no later than midday on 24 February 2020. This is most important so capacity in the Committee Rooms can be managed and the right quantity of refreshments can be ordered. When you RSVP, please specify if you require lunch and if you have any dietary requirements. A further session will be scheduled to take place in early April.

Contact [Kerry Nicholls](#)

Innovation & Growth Directorate

HM Treasury Financial Services Skills Taskforce final report

The [final report from the HM Treasury Financial Services Skills](#) asks for transformational, strategic, system-wide change. A failure to respond to skills supply constraints and new talent demands could pose an existential threat to the sector. The Taskforce, chaired by Mark Hoban and led by CityUK with significant support from the City Corporation and EY, sets out recommendations which will help the sector and its 1.1m people across the UK maintain relevant skills.

Contact [Claire Tunley](#) 07827 449 325

The UK-Africa Investment Summit

On 20 January the Prime Minister hosted the UK-Africa Investment Summit for 21 African Heads of State. The City Corporation supported and hosted fringe events including: local currency financing in emerging markets with the World Bank and the Department for International Development; the announcement of the Catalyst Funds initiative to support scaling African FinTech; the launch of Kenya's first green bond on the London Stock Exchange, and investment opportunities for the UK's private sector. Discussions will inform the Sustainable Development Capital Initiative which focuses on increasing investment into emerging markets in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Contact [Heather Wilson](#) on ext. 3381.

World Economic Forum

The Lord Mayor and the Policy Chair attended the World Economic Forum in Davos, 21-24 January. Davos provided the City Corporation with high-level global platforms to express confidence about the future of the City. It was also an important opportunity to access senior City stakeholders, from the UK and overseas. The City Corporation developed a one-team approach, aligning with the UK government, Innovate Finance, the Green Finance Institute and the Impact Investment Institute. Sustainability and Green Finance dominated the Davos agenda, which was timely given our work towards COP26. Key outcomes were: interaction with the Chancellor and No. 10, and a successful first ever City of London Corporation and The Global City branded event at Davos.

Contact [Po Chan](#) on ext. 3384.

Total Tax Contribution of UK Financial Services

The annual Total Tax Contribution of UK Financial Services report, forms a key part of City Corporation messaging about the value of the sector to the UK economy: it represents £75.5bn (10.5%) of all UK tax receipts. This total is broadly stable compared to 2018's £75.0bn despite ongoing economic uncertainty.

Contact [Katharina Ehrhart](#) on ext. 3386

City Statistics Briefing

A [new statistical infographic](#) about the City provides the latest stats about City of London jobs, workers, firms and contribution to the wider London and UK economy.

Contact [Katharina Ehrhart](#) on ext. 3386.

London as a centre for managing risk

The UK's unique capabilities as an international financial centre mean it is well placed to help multinationals mitigate a diverse range of financial risks on a global scale, [London as a Centre for Managing Risk](#) finds.

Contact [Paula Lucci](#) on ext. 3626.

Roundtable with Brent McIntosh, Undersecretary of State for International Affairs at US Treasury

The Policy Chair hosted Brent McIntosh for a senior cross-sector roundtable event. McIntosh's update focused on US Treasury's sweeping stocktake of the US regulatory landscape. We can expect further tailoring in line with 2018 'Recommendations'.

Contact [Isabelle Almeida](#) on ext. 3587

Electoral Services

Publication of the Ward Lists

Final preparations for the publication of the Ward Lists 2020-21 are currently taking place. The revised Ward Lists will be in force for any elections that take place between 16 February 2020 and 15 February 2021. A paper copy of the Ward List relevant to each Member will be placed in Member's pigeon-holes and we will email you once this has been done.

Annual Wardnotes

Arrangements have been finalised with the Aldermen for the Annual Wardnotes 2020. Details are on the City of London website and appeared in the Ward newsletters. The invitations to electors will be dispatched around 21 February 2020.

Contact [Charlotte Gordon](#) on ext. 3497

Culture Mile

'Around the Corner' installation

'Around the Corner' is a series of 12 installations by KHBT Studio (Karsten Huneck & Bernd Truempler) between Millennium Bridge and Barbican which guides visitors from the Tate and St Pauls, into and around the Culture Mile area. The installations double as benches and form the sentence 'What are you going to meet if you turn this corner?', a quote from Virginia Woolf's seminal novel, *Jacob's Room*. The first word, 'What' is located at the Millennium Bridge and each installation is located at a point where the next installation can be seen, providing wayfinding support to the five million people who cross the bridge each year, and acting as a sculptural attractor. Virginia Woolf was one of the modernist writers who drove changes to narration in literature. In a time when beliefs regarding 'truth' were changing, authors told stories in a way that reflected the fragmented and disconnected world. It was called "stream-of-consciousness narration", defined by a narrator inhabiting the minds of various characters and depicting thoughts that are experienced both consciously and subconsciously. In "*Jacob's Room*" Virginia Woolf wrote: "The strange thing about life is that though the nature of it must have been apparent to everyone for hundreds of years, no one has left any adequate account of it. The streets of London have their map; but our passions are uncharted. What are you going to meet if you turn this corner?" 'Around the Corner' is inspired by the history of London as a whole and 20th Century literature specifically: a time when the City of London was starting to thrive, and many writers focused on the subject of an enigmatic London. The installations seek to create a new emotional connection that allows the visitor to explore an otherwise overlooked thoroughfare and its cultural destinations. The typeface is inspired by the very first edition of the book in 1922.

Contact [Rebecca Driver](#) on 020 3691 7034

City Bridge Trust

Spotlight Youth Club

City Bridge Trust (CBT) Chair Dhruv Patel and Funding Director Ciaran Rafferty undertook a visit of Spotlight Youth Club in Tower Hamlets recently at the invitation of London Youth's new President – Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE. In 2015, Her Majesty the Queen appointed Ken as Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Greater London and he was knighted in the 2018 New Year's Honours List for services to business and philanthropy.

Workforce Information Bill

A report published in November by the TUC on disability, employment and pay gaps shows that disabled people are facing double discrimination: not only are they less likely to have a paid job but, when they do, they earn substantially less than their non-disabled peers. The pay gap has increased over the 12 months by 0.3%. Lord Shinkwin put forward a 'Workforce Information Bill' building on the established work on Gender

Pay Gap reporting. CBT Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Chief Grants Officer are in agreement that this potential legislation is a positive step forwards and were proud to indicate to Lord Shinkwin that we would be an early ally and supporter of this forward-thinking work.

Association of Charitable Foundations AGM

CBT's Deputy Chair and Chief Grants Officer, with members of the CBT Team, attended the AGM of Association of Charitable Foundations on 6 November. This year's theme, 'The Long View: Funding on a finite planet', brought together trusts and foundations to consider their role in limiting the effects of climate change.

Strategic Governance Review

Work on the Bridge House Estates Strategic Governance Review continues and a detailed update paper on the strategic review was to be presented to the CBT Committee on 30 January 2020.

Corporate Charities Review

In July 2019, Members agreed to initiate a Corporate Charities Review, ensuring that each charity is most effectively and efficiently governed and achieves maximum impact for its beneficiaries. A set of recommendations will be produced for all the charities within scope and presented to Members for consideration from April 2020.

Contact [Catherine Mahoney](#) on ext. 3533

City of London Academies and Schools

The Education, Cultural and Creative Learning and Skills Strategies establish the City Corporation's commitment to prepare people to flourish in a rapidly changing world through exceptional education, opportunities for cultural and creative learning, and developing skills which links to the world of work. The events, activities and achievements listed below are grouped under the key strategic areas they most closely link to.

Exceptional education

City of London School for Girls

The Girls School held its first Climate Change Conference, with a panel of six inspiring speakers from a range of fields, including fashion, finance and film. Each discussed how their industries are involved in tackling the climate crisis. The school was joined by Claire Farrell, co-founder of Extinction Rebellion, who spoke about her journey from working at a fast fashion chain to organising one of the world's biggest civil unrest movements. The audience also heard from panellist Rowenna Trevelyan, Account Director at non-profit organisation The Ocean Agency. Rowenna explained how documentaries are used to educate the public on the damage being caused to the natural world. It was an insightful evening, which opened the audience's eyes to the ways in which we can help to preserve the environment that we live in.

Contact [Sam Robson](#) on 020 7847 5549

The City Academy, Hackney

Students from the Academy have been chosen to represent Arsenal in a national competition run by Premier League Communities. A group of Key Stage 3 students presented their winning plan for improving local communities to a panel of surprise judges that included footballers Ainsley Maitland-Niles and Sokratis Papastathopoulos. After the presentations the students enjoyed a quick kick around with the Arsenal team. The scheme helps provide high quality enterprise education that develops important life skills and raise awareness of the world of work. It also helps increase confidence, aspirations, attendance and motivation at school.

Contact [Emma Steel](#) on 020 8525 5440 (ext 5028)

Cultural and creative learning

Fusion Prize

Culture Mile Learning have now concluded their symposia events over the Autumn months to galvanise interest and support prospective applicants to the [Fusion Prize](#). The symposia focused on three key themes: the challenge of the skills gap and London's learners access to Fusion Skills; examples of best practice in using culture and creativity to develop Fusion Skills; and opportunities to test ideas with future users in the education, business and cultural sectors. The application window closed on 17 January 2020. The winning applicant will receive £50k to implement their solution to developing the Fusion Skills of London's learners through cultural engagement. The finalists will present their solutions to the Judging Panel on 30 April 2020 and the award ceremony will be in May 2020 when the winner will be announced.

Contact [Rosemara Mather-Lupton](#) on 020 7814 5579

The City Academy, Hackney

December saw two incredible productions from the music and drama teams at the Academy. The Key Stage 4 drama students performed The Snow Queen, a fairy-tale that inspired Frozen. The sensitive portrayal

of young girl who has lost her brother was complemented by a comical crow and beautiful costumes. The Winter Concert featured pupils from all years. There were stand out solo performances by talented singers and instrumentalists. It came complete with a remarkable rendition of Let It Go by staff members at the Academy.

Contact [Emma Steel](#) on 020 8525 5440 (ext 5028)

Skills which link to the world of work

City Students Conference and Prefects' Dinner

The Chief Commoner, Deputy Tom Hoffman, hosted an afternoon conference for secondary school pupils in the extended family of schools and beyond focused on the City Corporation, its remit and its services. The conference was opened by the Chief Commoner and the Assistant Town Clerk and featured speakers from many of the City Corporation's departments. The conference offered pupils insight into the varied sectors and jobs required in public services and encouraged pupils to think about their own priorities for public services. The conference was immediately followed by the annual Prefects' Dinner. The young people from all the Family of Schools with a Sixth Form had the opportunity to hear from a number of speakers about their experiences of culture in school and beyond school and to discuss these issues at their tables.

Contact [Chris Oldham](#) on 0207 332 3342

City of London School for Girls

In December, the country's most talented students were honoured at ceremonies in London and Edinburgh, as they received a coveted Arkwright Engineering Scholarship Award from one of the UK's leading engineering programmes. At City of London School for Girls, four Year 12 pupils were awarded a scholarship - a record number for the school. Each pupil was presented with an annual financial award, as well as enrichment activities including mentoring and industry visits that will enhance their experience of engineering in a real-world context. The Scholars were selected for their potential as future engineering leaders by assessing their academic, practical and leadership skills in engineering disciplines.

Contact [Sam Robson](#) on 020 7847 5549

City of London Freeman's

The wellbeing of students is an integral part of day-to-day life at Freeman's. We are therefore delighted to be launching a programme of Parent Seminars this spring, designed to assist parents to navigate the issues young people face growing up in today's society. Robbie Davies, Head of Upper School discusses the need for such support, given that our young people are growing up connected to a world of which many of us have little experience. "The challenges of parenthood are nothing new but we are right to question whether our responses and instincts have adapted to best reflect the modern world in which our young people are growing up. It has been in light of these sorts of conversations, with the pastoral team at Freeman's and in particular with the parental community, that we have brought together our plans for a Parent Seminar programme. Our speakers have been carefully selected and chosen for their expertise, guiding parents through four evening seminars. From insights on the party scene, to cultivating resilience, supporting young people in sport and managing the impact of sexualisation of the 21st century on our children, the aim is to help parents feel informed. We want to encourage them to reflect and share their experiences, so we can work best together as a community to promote the happiness and wellbeing of the young people in our care."

Contact [Sarah Sergeant](#) on 01372 822447 for further information.

Gresham College

Our Visiting Professor of Cosmology, Roberto Trotta, won a Royal Astronomical Society award for the public communication of cosmology in January; you can catch his next lecture in February. January also saw our Rhetoric Professor Joanna Bourke speaking about the cultural history of the Breast on [Woman's Hour](#). We have a lecture at the Science Museum Late on 26 February about [Newton's London Career](#) (ticketed via the Science Museum Lates, free, but the lecture itself is first come, first served). We are continue to see parties of school students, so please tell schools that you know that [we can book seats for them!](#)

What Has Einstein Ever Done for You?

Albert Einstein's mind-boggling ideas revolutionized our view of the universe. From relativity to curved spacetime, from the Big Bang to black holes and gravitational waves, nothing could be further from our everyday experience than such esoteric concepts, right? Wrong! This lecture by Gresham's Visiting Professor Roberto Trotta will offer [a surprising exploration](#) of the wide-ranging consequences of Einstein's ideas, and how they shape our everyday lives. Monday 3 February, 1-2pm, Museum of London. Un-ticketed and free.

The Ethics of Surgical Innovation

Scientific knowledge is advancing at dizzying speed and each day brings new breakthroughs in medical understanding. Unprecedented advances are opening possibilities that only a decade ago would have seemed like science fiction. Yet a deep anxiety pervades our society, raising questions about the wisdom and motives of experts and the implications of new technology. This lecture uses examples from

cutting-edge science and medicine to explore the ethical questions which advances in robotics, personalised medicine, transplantation and artificial intelligence pose for doctors, patients and society. Wednesday 19 February, 6-7pm, Museum of London. Un-ticketed and free.

Some lectures are ticketed and all are live-streamed online. Details of upcoming lectures and recordings of previous ones are available on the [Gresham College website](#).

Contact [Lucia Graves](#) on 020 7831 0575

Open Spaces

Wonders of the night sky weekend

The Friends of West Ham Park are holding a weekend of discovery and exploration on the wonders of the night sky from Friday 31 January to Sunday 2 February at West Ham Park. On Saturday it's 'ask the astronomer' question time from 4pm – 6pm at the Scout Hut. On Sunday the planets will be coming to the park with the scale model of the solar system; children and scouts will be bringing this to life from 2–4pm. Every night from 6pm there's stargazing – if the skies are clear. The sessions will be fun and informative with an opportunity to ask the expert and learn about the magic of meteors and amazing asteroids.

Southern Counties Cross Country Championship

The Southern Counties Cross Country Championship returned to Hampsted Heath on 25 January. This fantastic event brought thousands of athletes of all ages from the South of England to compete on the challenging, hilly course. Spectators lined the route to cheer on the runners. The following day, two Shire Horses from the charity Operation Centaur visited the Heath to help with the restoration of the ground following the races.

Time to bloom

In it's 20th year the annual daffodil bulb planting took place at Queen's Park in November. Over 2,000 blubs were planted during seven sessions of 30 local school children. Each class also got to visit the newly refurbished farm area. The pupils will return in spring to see their daffodils in full bloom.

Contact [Roush Islam](#) on ext. 3614

Improving the Environment

Tech Takeback

The 10 and 11 January saw the Recycling Teams' second Tech-Takeback event. On the first day a pop up collection point was created in the Guildhall North Wing reception and the day after saw a pop up point created as part of the Barbican Estate Give and Take Day held in St Giles Cripplegate Church (a regular event organised by the Recycling Team). The two day Tech-Takeback event saw 663 electrical items from 113 households weighing 1.33 tonnes; this is the equivalent of saving seven tonnes of CO₂. As well as making CO₂ savings, the Tech-Takeback events mean that people can clear out their old tech. One of the main barriers that makes people hold on to their tech is that they're worried about what's on it, so the tech collected at the events has the data securely erased. Any tech that is still in a good condition and works well is given to charities, schools or vulnerable people in need, chosen by the Recycling Team. We hope to be hosting more of these events in the future!

Mansell Street Estate Give and Take Day

The Recycling Teams' Give and Take Days are an opportunity for City residents having a clear-out to make sure unwanted items are reused, recycled or disposed of responsibly whilst also supporting the local community. The next one will be held on Mansell Street Estate in the Green Box Community Centre on 7 March. These events are held five times a year throughout the City.

Both of these events support the Circular Economy Model that many businesses are now moving towards. Unlike linear economies, where products are made, used and then disposed of, circular economies promote the need for resources to be used for as long as possible before being recycled and re-used in other products.

Contact [Karen Marks](#) on ext. 4975

Barbican Centre

Walthamstow Garden Party announced as one of the World's Top Green Events

Walthamstow Garden Party, produced by the Barbican in partnership with London Borough of Waltham Forest, Create London and local residents and organisations, has been announced as one of the recipients of the Greener Festival Award 2019. Awarded to events that have demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainability and a reduction of environmental impacts, the Party won a 'Commended' Award at a ceremony held at Eurosonic Noorderslag, Netherlands on Friday 17 January.

London International Mime Festival

The Festival returned to the Barbican in January 2020 with four captivating theatre shows and an event in the cinema, spanning the spectrum of contemporary visual performance. A positive critical response across all the shows included a 4* review in The Times for Rooman, a 4* review in The Guardian for Child, a feature on Child in the Financial Times, a feature on Chimpanzee in The New Scientist, and a feature on Cold Blood in The Guardian.

Alternate Realities at Barbican Cinema

During January, Barbican Cinema showcased highlights from Sheffield Doc/Fest's pioneering Alternate Realities exhibition of interactive and immersive non-fiction, with a week of storytelling through documentary film and a free augmented reality & interactive digital art exhibition on Level G of the Barbican Centre. Exhibiting as part of Inside Out, a year-long cross-arts season at the Barbican exploring the relationship between our inner lives and creativity, Alternate Realities was presented by Sheffield Doc Fest and the Barbican Centre, with support from Arts Council England.

Contact [John Kelly](#) on ext. 2389

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Gold Medal Final

The final of Guildhall School's prestigious prize for musicians, the Gold Medal, will be held on 13 May in the Barbican Hall. The prize is awarded to singers and instrumentalists in alternate years and this year was the turn of the instrumentalists, who perform a concerto of their choice with Guildhall Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Adrian Leaper. This year's finalists are: Soohong Park (piano), Ben Tarlton (cello), and Ke Ma (piano). This year's distinguished judges will include Emma Bloxham, Editor, BBC Radio 3, Huw Humphreys, Head of Music, Barbican Centre and Nicholas Mathias, Director, IMG Artists, as well as Guildhall School's Vice-Principal & Director of Music Jonathan Vaughan and conductor Adrian Leaper.

Soprano Alexandra Lowe selected for Royal Opera House

Guildhall alumnus and soprano Alexandra Lowe has been selected to join the Royal Opera's prestigious Jette Parker Young Artists Programme in September 2020. The programme is formed of four singers selected from more than 424 applicants from more than 25 countries across the globe. The Programme supports the artistic development of talented singers at the beginning of their careers. Lowe is currently at the National Opera Studio and recently completed her Artist Diploma with distinction at Guildhall School.

Preview screening of new James Bond film starring alumnus Daniel Craig

Guildhall School is hosting a special fundraising preview screening of the next James Bond film 'No Time To Die' starring alumnus Daniel Craig, in honour of the School's 140th anniversary. The exclusive screening will take place on Wednesday 1 April at 6pm in Barbican Cinema 1. As well as a champagne reception, there will be a post-screening party with drinks, hot food and a secret auction of Bond items. Individual tickets are available for £195 with discounted tickets for groups of 4 or more, and entertaining packages for Corporate Partners are available giving companies visibility on the night and 10 of the best seats in the cinema for £2,500 (+VAT). Tickets can be booked by emailing georgie.gwynne@gsmd.ac.uk or calling 020 7628 2571.

Contact [Rebecca Driver](#), Rebecca Driver Media Relations on 020 7247 1894
Contact [Jo Hutchinson](#), Guildhall School of Music & Drama on 020 7382 6130

London Symphony Orchestra (LSO)

LSO gave a series of concerts to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Beethoven, highlighting lesser-known repertoire by the composer. These were performed at the Barbican, in Birmingham and on tour in Barcelona, Frankfurt and Paris, with soloists Lisa Batiashvili, Elsa Dreisig, Pavol Breslik and David Soar. Conductor Nathalie Stutzmann and LSO Principal Guest Conductor Gianandrea Noseda also conducted the Orchestra this month, joined by violinists Alina Ibragimova and Christian Tetzlaff, respectively. Continuing the Orchestra's community and education work at LSO St Luke's on Old Street, LSO Discovery resumed their regular Free Friday Lunchtime Concerts, LSO Create Monday Club for adults with learning disabilities, and sessions for Under-5s. The new cohort of LSO Panufnik composers has been selected for the scheme, with Stef Conner, Christian Drew, Patrick Jones, Chris McCormack, Emma-Kate Matthews and Alex Paxton.

Contact [Veronica Kocovska](#) on 020 7382 2560

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)

Geoff Pick, Director of LMA, has been awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours for services to the management of records and archives in the capital. Geoff said: "I'm delighted to receive this honour. Having worked as an archivist for over 40 years, I know how important it is to maintain London's historical record, safeguarding knowledge, improving understanding, inspiring participation, and supporting good

public governance." On Saturday 7 December 2019, LMA hosted *Provoke: The 17th LGBTQ+ History and Archives Conference* with a focus on the history and culture of BAME LGBTQ+ communities and addressing the question *How can we redress the invisibility, erasure and oftentimes appropriation of BAME LGBTQ+ history and culture?* The entertaining and thought provoking day consisted of talks, workshops, round tables, stalls and exhibitions including pop-ups for Haringey Vanguard about recording BAME LGBTQ+ oral histories and Rainbow Pilgrims featuring the stories and portraits of LGBTQ+ migrant and traveller communities in Britain. In January, LMA published a major update of the [Collections Catalogue](#). The development carried out with system provider Minisis was informed by user feedback and staff consultation. The most significant change is the provision of a fully functioning collection tree as the main navigation tool for moving through a collection; access to the Collection Tree View opens new ways of looking at our collections for users.

Contact [Philippa Smith](#) on ext. 3843

Fundamental Review

As part of the Fundamental Review the separate entrance at Guildhall to the City Business Library and the Guildhall Library will close with effect from 23 March. The closure will provide a more streamlined system for receiving visitors to the Guildhall complex and improve security.

Contact [Alex Leader](#) on ext. 1849

Museum of London

New Museum of London planning application submitted

This month the Museum of London announced the submission of their planning application to the City of London Corporation to transform a campus of market buildings in West Smithfield into a world-class, 24-hour cultural destination with the aspiration for this new museum to become one of the top ten attractions in the capital, capable of welcoming over two million visitors a year. The submission of this planning application is the latest milestone for the project, which was formally announced in 2015. The City Corporation's Planning and Transportation Committee will take a decision on whether to approve the plans later this year. The story was covered widely in the media. Full details are available on the [Press Releases page](#) on the Museum's website.

Museum of London to celebrate Dub Reggae and its influence on the capital

This 8 May, as part of [Curating London](#), the Museum of London will open [Dub London](#) – a new free display celebrating Dub Reggae music and culture in the capital, from its roots in Jamaican reggae to how it has shaped communities and culture over the last 50 years. Through collecting objects, memories and personal stories from some of Dub's most iconic people and places from across London, the museum will create an exhibit that will plunge visitors into the heart of Dub Reggae culture. Dub London is part of the Museum of London's SoundClash season, with [The Clash: London Calling](#) now open and free to view until 19 April 2020.

Syd's coffee stall acquired by the Museum of London

The Museum of London acquired East End bastion, Syd's coffee stall, as part of its collection after the store closed for business on 20 December 2019 after over 100 years of service. The stall sat just off Shoreditch High Street since 1919 and had been passed down through three generations. This 'second life for Syd's' (to share its story with Londoners in the new Museum of London when it opens in the coming years) was celebrated widely across both national and regional media including the Evening Standard, Times, Telegraph, Guardian, BBC and ITV. Watch the full story on the [Museum of London website](#).

Contact [Emily Brazee](#)

Community Safety

London Drug and Alcohol Policy Forum (LDAPF)

On 14 January, the LDAPF, with the GLA, Public Health England and the Association of Directors of Public Health London hosted a conference on alcohol in the Livery Hall. The aim of the event was to look at achieving change at a London level in terms of preventing and reducing alcohol related health and social harms. Attendees heard from London South Bank University about the latest evidence in effective social marketing and the concentrations of harm in the most deprived sections of society. The conference attracted an audience of some 120 professionals drawn from local authorities and health agencies. Overlaps between alcohol, smoking and rough sleeping populations were explored at an evening reception the LDAPF hosted with Knowledge Action Change on 23 January in the Basinghall Suite. Harm reduction is a well-developed and widely accepted approach in responding to drug related harms, in other fields, notably in terms of smoking; understanding and approaches are still evolving. The Policy Adviser welcomed health professionals and academics to the launch and championed the benefits that safer nicotine products can provide to smokers who have struggled to stop by using traditional approaches. The UK is at the forefront of global developments in this area and the potential gains are significant.

Contact [Jane Anson](#) on ext. 3084

In the News

- The Policy Chair was quoted on a front page [City A.M](#) article on the City Corporation's annual total tax report. Extensive coverage in [The Times](#), [The New York Times](#), [The i](#), [ITV News](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Metro](#), [The Independent](#), [The Sun](#) [all viewable internally], [The Daily Telegraph](#), [Reuters](#), [This Is Money](#), [Yahoo Money](#), [Accountancy Daily](#), [The Belfast Telegraph](#) and many more outlets.
- [The Sunday Times](#) (£) reported on the Policy Chair's comments in response to the Chancellor's interview with the *Financial Times* on his vision for the future relationship with the EU. [City A.M.](#) also splashed on the Policy Chair's reaction on its front page. Further coverage in [City A.M.](#) and the [International Business Times](#).
- [City A.M.](#) published the Policy Chair's fortnightly column, in which she stresses the importance of the services sector to the wider economy.
- [BBC London News](#) (starts at 03:12) covered the London Government Dinner at Mansion House, including the Mayor of London's speech warning against an anti-London agenda. Further coverage on the front page of [City AM](#), [Evening Standard](#), [Belfast Telegraph](#), [Yahoo Finance](#) and [MSN News](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), and [City A.M.](#) [both viewable internally] also covered the event.
- The Policy Chair and Lord Mayor were quoted in [City A.M.](#) on the City Corporation report which shows the UK continues to outperform other financial sectors in helping firms tackle risk. Further coverage in [Outlook India](#), [New Indian Express](#), [Business Standard](#) and [Devdiscourse](#).
- [Bloomberg](#) published an article about a report by the International Regulatory Strategy Group (co-sponsored by the City Corporation) calling for regulators for help in competing after Brexit. Also covered in [FT](#) (£), [City AM](#), [Reuters](#), [Japan Times](#), [New York Times](#), [Law Society Gazette](#), [Law 360](#), [Money Marketing](#), and [Currency.com](#).
- [Property Week](#) (£) ran an article about the City Corporation's outline plans for the relocation of Billingsgate, New Spitalfields and Smithfield to Dagenham Dock. Also in [NSC](#), [EG](#), [React News](#), [Construction Enquirer](#), [Building Design](#), [Architects' Journal](#), [City Matters](#), [The Docklands and East London Advertiser](#), [The Islington Tribune](#) and [Barking and Dagenham Post](#).
- The Lord Mayor wrote in [City A.M.](#) about the importance of culture to the economy.
- The Lord Mayor's Annual Gresham College Lecture was covered by the [Evening Standard's](#) 'Future London'.
- [Architects' Journal](#) (£) reported that the Museum of London has submitted an application for its proposed move to West Smithfield. The Director of the Museum was quoted and the City Corporation was referenced. Also in [City A.M.](#) [viewable internally], [Construction Enquirer](#), [Construction Enquirer](#), [Construction](#), [Apollo Magazine](#), [PBCToday](#), [Leisure Opportunities](#), [Attractions Management](#), [Daily Mail](#), [News Amed](#), [Webwire.com](#), [Building](#), and [Time Out](#)
- The Policy Chair was quoted in the [Evening Standard](#) after Studio Egret West and Hawkins\Brown won competitions to regenerate East and West Smithfield buildings and the wider public realm in the area. Further coverage in [Architect's Journal](#) (£), [City A.M.](#), [Ian Visits](#), [MSN](#), [Yahoo](#), [BD Online](#), [ProLandscaper](#) and [Estates Gazette](#).
- [Property Week](#) published a comment piece by the Chair of the Property Investment Board on the positive role Business Improvement Districts play to help regenerate areas in the Square Mile. The City Corporation was referenced. Further coverage in [City Matters](#) Square Mile.
- [City A.M.](#) [viewable internally only] reported on fundraising events supporting Australia's bushfire appeal, including a dinner by the City Corporation and the Australian High Commission. Lord Mayor William Russell was quoted. Further coverage in [City Matters](#).
- Chair of the City Bridge Trust Committee, wrote an oped in [Fundraising](#) magazine on the charity-funder's new Small Grants programme.
- [City Matters](#) and [Charity Today](#) covered a grant awarded by City Bridge Trust, to CARIS Haringey to help feed the homeless. The Chair of the City Bridge Trust Committee, was quoted. .
- [Evening Standard](#), [Newham Recorder](#), [Children and Young People Now](#) and [Islington Tribune](#) [viewable internally] covered a City Bridge Trust grant to The Children's Society. Chair of the City Bridge Trust Committee, was quoted.
- [Civil Society](#) ran an oped by the Chair of the City Bridge Trust Committee, on social investment. [£]
- [City Matters](#) reported on a scheme led by the City Corporation and Camden Council, which is clamping down on drivers who leave their engines on when parked. The initiative sees 32 London authorities joining forces in a bid to cut dangerous vehicle emissions. The Chair of the Environmental Services committee, was quoted.
- [The Times](#) (£) reported on the City Corporation's forthcoming review of how Hampstead Heath's Swimming Ponds are managed, including fees and lifeguarding provision. Chair of the Hampstead Heath Management Committee, was quoted. Further coverage in the [Ham and High](#) (two [opinion pieces](#)), the [Guardian](#) in a letter by a reader, [Camden New Journal](#) letter to the editor, [Ham & High](#), [Ham&High](#), [Evening Standard](#) and [Camden New Journal](#) [Viewable internally only], and the [Evening Standard](#).
- Richard Jones from the Barbican Music Library was interviewed on BBC 6 Music [Shaun Keaveny Afternoon Show](#) about a new exhibition on the German band, Tangerine Dream.
- Chair of the Environment Committee was quoted in [City Matters](#) about the Tech-Takeback event.
- Heathrow Animal Reception Centre featured in [ITV](#)'s prime-time documentary about the airport.
- [City Matters](#) reported that the City Corporation has donated £25k to support individuals affected by the continuing crisis in Myanmar,

Contact [Aisha Musad](#) on ext. 3328

Key Links:

For all enquiries contact MembersBriefing@cityoflondon.gov.uk or telephone the Communications Team on 020 7332 3467