

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CITY?

## WELCOME

Whilst I am Master, I am planning to provide an update to the Livery about the goings on in the City during the preceding month. This builds on the articles that I have been writing about the City for the last few years (now largely in my new book) and puts more flesh on the bones of the people and events mentioned in these earlier articles. Needless to say, July and August are relatively quiet months and the City Corporation is in recess for the whole of August with no formal meetings taking place. However, there is usually a scurry of activity in July in order to ensure that the wheels don't come off the wagon over the summer period.

## LORD MAYOR VISITS LEEDS, SHEFFIELD & MANCHESTER

The Lord Mayor visited Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester at the end of July. It is not unusual for the Lord Mayor to travel within the UK and since the Lord Mayor represents the financial and business services sector then it is very relevant that he visits those cities which host many such jobs. Two-thirds of the industry is now based outside of London.

In his regular article in City AM, the Lord Mayor said, "Manchester has the UK's second biggest economy, bigger than that of Wales or Northern Ireland. Meanwhile Leeds has more science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates than anywhere else in the country, which has manifested itself in UK-leading healthtech and fintech industries, and a professional services hub second only to London in size."



The Lord Mayor with business leaders  
in Sheffield

His message was, "With our departure from the EU on the horizon, it is more important than ever that our cities work together. Because a stronger regional economy means a stronger, more competitive UK on the world stage." The Lord Mayor visited many businesses during his trip and made many useful contacts. He also attended the Livery Brigantes breakfast in Manchester (a gathering of Liverymen and women in the north) with the Mayor of Manchester in attendance, and Cutlers' Hall in Sheffield.



A MONTHLY  
PUBLICATION  
FROM  
THE MASTER  
Alderman Alison  
Gowman



## THE CITY OF LONDON Who, What, When, Why?

The Master's compilation of City articles is now available in book form.

Copies are available by contacting the Master personally or by email:

[themaster@plaastererslivery.co.uk](mailto:themaster@plaastererslivery.co.uk)

Books are priced at £10 (plus postage if required). All proceeds will be going to the Master's chosen charity for the year, The Museum of London.





## CORPORATION OF LONDON'S POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Meanwhile the Chair of the City's Policy and Resources Committee (Catherine McGuinness) was in the hot seat to react to the appointment of the new Prime Minister and many new ministers. Catherine's role as the effective leader of the City Corporation brings her more directly into dialogue with Government and especially around regulation and representing the views from the City businesses. The City Minister, John Glen MP, retained his place and Catherine congratulated him "as stability and continuation have been so important."

Catherine also launched the BritAM business guide to trade and investment in the UK. An updated 'how to' guide for US firms to export to or invest in the UK, giving expert advice and help on the sectors and regions in the UK where investment is welcomed. See a copy here [babinc.org/bab-launches-finding-your-way-uk](http://babinc.org/bab-launches-finding-your-way-uk). This launch could not be more appropriate as Brexit is imminent and the UK must look widely for its trading partners.



*"...stability and continuation have been so important."*

## COMMON COUNCIL MEETING—18TH JULY 2019

At the last Common Council meeting before the recess on July 18th, there was a flurry of reports. (Members might want to note that I am planning a visit to the Common Council meeting on 16th January 2020, further details to follow). There was a formal statement of major issues read out that provided some interesting information about the major building projects that the City is undertaking. These are the new Museum of London building, the new combined courts and police station in Fleet Street and the new combined Markets building which will host the current Smithfields, Spitalfields and Billingsgate Markets. Additionally, there might be a new concert hall (Centre4Music) on the existing Museum site. These are substantial projects that the City will need to fund either in whole or part and this has brought financial pressures on the Corporation's finances. It was therefore announced that the City would be borrowing £450 million from external sources to meet the costs—the first time borrowing has been considered for over 30 years. Coupled with this is the start of a fundamental review of the Corporation's activities so as to strengthen the financial discipline and to ensure that the important projects can be funded.

However, if you think that the Council meeting is all about grand statement there were also some interesting questions asked that might sound an accord with your own concerns about the City.

One was about the future of the City of London School for Girls that wants to expand but is based in the middle of the Barbican and the residents are antagonistic to plans to build and fill up the density of the Estate—impacting on the quality and design of the space.

Another asked about the standards of behaviour of members—who do all adhere to the relevant Local Authority code of conduct. A third question asked about the noxious odours that emanate from some establishments right onto the streets which are unpleasant—what can the City do? It seems that there is to be a new planning requirement about the cleaning of the ventilation ducts that are meant to extract or eliminate the worst smells.

A further question addressed the issue of 'dockless bikes' which seem to proliferate and cause obstructions and difficulties for those with limited sight or other disability. The City has limited the right to use the city streets to two companies by way of an experiment to see how it works. If you find a bike inappropriately parked then you can report this and the company is required to move it within 90 minutes. You can report it to the relevant officers by emailing [DBECleansingSEOOfficers@int.cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:DBECleansingSEOOfficers@int.cityoflondon.gov.uk) with the location of the bike and a photo of the obstruction or by calling 020 7332 4970.

## CARTMARKING

A final question at the Common Council meeting related to the Cartmarking Ceremony which takes over the Guildhall Yard for a whole morning in July.

It transpires that whilst every effort is made to keep traffic flowing this does cause delays. The Carmen Livery organise the event every year as part of the historic role of being the carriers in the City. They arrange the event expertly and do pay for this disruption by way of reimbursement of the cost of erecting some 400 barriers and putting down and then clearing away the sand on the roadways (to help the horses cope with the road surface) and pay for the traffic orders and parking dispensations. It is, however, likely that this might change to a weekend in the next few years. It should be remembered that until the 1970s, the Lord Mayor's Show took place on a working day!

