



LORD MAYOR'S
ANNUAL REPORT
2011/2012



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides a review of my year in office and includes a number of suggested improvements.

2. Thanks

- 2.1 I would like to start by thanking my former colleagues on the Council for enabling me to be Lord Mayor for the year 2011/12. It was a great honour to be elected as the 115th Lord Mayor of the City and my Consort and I will always remember our fascinating and rewarding year in office.
- 2.2 I would also like to thank all those people in Sheffield and elsewhere who have been so welcoming and friendly and who are so appreciative of their engagement with the Lord Mayor. On balance, I believe that Sheffield values and respects the role the Lord Mayor plays in the City and would wish the office to continue.
- 2.3 Thanks are also due to the Rev Canon Peter Ingram for his support during the year as my Chaplain and to my Consort, John, who managed to fit in so many engagements whilst having to cope with the many challenges of a rapidly expanding business.

3. My Year In Office

- 3.1 The Lord Mayor is involved with so many types of engagement that I can only give a flavour of what we experienced. I saw engagements as essentially falling into four categories: regular engagements that every Lord Mayor is requested to do; responding to invites that come in from a whole host of community groups, schools, businesses, churches, old people's homes, charities, arts and sports organisations, Council Departments etc.; events that the Lord Mayor initiates him/herself and charity fund-raising

Regular Engagements

- 3.2 Just a few of the regular engagements include British Citizenship ceremonies, Remembrance Sunday, Veterans' Day, the installation of the Master Cutler (and I was delighted to be able to speak at the installation of Pam Liversidge (OBE DL)) as the first woman Master Cutler, the Legal Service, various professional dinners and the Civic Services of other mayors.

Events

- 3.3 The Lord Mayor receives so many invites that I can only give a few examples. July last year was full of community events – galas, festivals, plant sales, fairs. December is the month for carol concerts. Throughout the year there was an ongoing programme of major sports events and Sheffield International Venues and the Major Events Unit are to be congratulated on securing the European Fencing Championships and the European Figure Skating Championships in particular. We also did tree plantings, official openings, awards ceremonies, anniversary celebrations, attended concerts and shows and many events which reflected the cultural and multi-ethnic diversity in our City.
- 3.4 Most of the events that I initiated were around my own particular interests. They included charity coffee mornings, several local history events for which my thanks go particularly to Archives and Local Studies for their help and the Lord Mayor’s Singing Festival so enthusiastically organised by the Music Service and which I hope will continue and will eventually lead to the formation of a City Youth Choir.
- 3.5 I was keen to continue with the Lord Mayor’s Junior Citizens Award. It was a pleasure to work with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards team and to see the pride on the young people’s faces when they received their certificates.
- 3.6 I can also report that the Lord Mayor’s section on the Council’s website now includes the weekly list of Lord Mayor’s engagements which I hope will make it easier for Sheffielders to find out about the Lord Mayor’s activities. . I also became the first Sheffield Lord Mayor to tweet on a regular basis.

Lord Mayor’s Charity Fund

- 3.7 I would like to thank all those who helped me during the year with fund-raising for my chosen charities, SRSB (the Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind) and the British Heart Foundation and particularly their Mending Broken Hearts Appeal. I am grateful to all those who contributed by running concerts at the Town Hall and the City Hall, a Lord Mayor’s pilates class, Radio Ramadhan and Holy Trinity Millhouses and many others for their donations, Councillor Ray Satur for organising the Lord Mayor’ Charity dinner and an evening at Owlerton Stadium and the Deputy Chief Executive for organising a quiz evening. Together we succeeded in raising around £27,000, most of which has gone to my two main charities but a number of other organisations have also had small donations.
- 3.8 I have learned during the year how much work is required to raise funds for charity and could not have achieved such a great total without the assistance of many helpers, both friends and volunteers from my two charities. I hope that for future Lord Mayors the Council would look at setting up a fund-raising group which meets regularly and which could assist with organising events, acquiring prizes and lots for raffles and auctions and raffles and overseeing the finances.

4. **Recommendations**

School Visits

- 4.1 It is a joy to visit schools and to welcome school parties to the Town Hall. The children are usually wide-eyed at the magnificence of the Parlour! However, it appears that a number of schools have regular engagement with the Lord Mayor on an annual basis whilst others are not even aware that they can. The most satisfactory engagement, I found, is with junior school age children, especially with school councils, and with pupils from special schools. I would recommend therefore that all the City's junior schools are made aware that they can meet with the Lord Mayor and that a rota should be introduced to enable many more primary schools to take advantage of the opportunity of either visiting the Town Hall or having the Lord Mayor visit them.

Twin Cities

- 4.2 During my year we were fortunate to be invited to visit our Germany twin city, Bochum and also to receive visitors from other cities which have a special link with Sheffield such as from Chengdu and Esteli. Such visitors always bring gifts to present to the City and there are many such items in the Parlour which are seen by very few people. I would recommend a second display case is introduced to the landing area outside the reception rooms on the first floor of the Town Hall to allow all the gifts from our linked cities to be displayed and seen by Members and by visitors to the Town Hall.

Sheffield Legends

- 4.3 The Sheffield Legends idea was introduced 10 years ago. It is a very open process with possible Legends being nominated by the public and then scored by a panel consisting of representatives from different sectors in the City such as education, media, arts, sport. However, the main criterion for being selected as a Legend is that the person should be known nationally or, preferably, internationally. I was delighted that Dame Margaret Drabble emerged as this year's Legend as she has always been supportive of the City and is one of our greatest novelists. In addition we have never had a writer as a Legend before.
- 4.4 However, having seen the names of all those nominated I am very aware that some of them have made a huge contribution to the City and are well known within the City but would probably never be chosen as a Legend as they are less well-known outside Sheffield. It would be good if there could be a scheme which recognised such people. I believe that when former Councillor Graham Oxley was Lord Mayor the idea of a Lord Mayor's Citizen's Award was mooted. I would like to recommend that this concept is taken further and the possibility of some such scheme being introduced is explored.

The Parlour

- 4.5 This is obviously the province of the current Lord Mayor but I was very conscious that the Lord Mayor's Parlour was not very heavily used. I am aware that one week, for example, I was out and about the whole time and didn't go in the Parlour at all. It seems a pity that such a magnificent room is not made more use of in the Lord Mayor's absence – particularly for hosting such occasions as visiting delegations or high profile meetings.
- 4.6 The other issue with the Parlour is that because of the listed status of the panelling it is extremely difficult to display any new pictures and getting any of the existing ones changed seems singularly fraught with difficulty. I was presented with several pictures during my year and am disappointed that I have just had to leave them propped up and that they can't be hung properly. It is also embarrassing if someone who has presented a picture comes to the Parlour again and finds their picture is not on display.

Corporate Gifts

- 4.7 Like previous Lord Mayors I found the Council's lack of a corporate gifts policy frustrating. It goes without saying that foreign visitors in particular invariably come with a gift for the City and it is frankly embarrassing that the City has very little offer in return or that someone has to dash out to acquire something suitable at the last minute. This issue really ought to be addressed.

4.8 Resources

The Lord Mayor gets invaluable support from the office staff, drivers, mace bearer and Town Hall attendants and I would like to thank all of them for helping us so much. I am though a little concerned that the resources available to support the Lord Mayor are dwindling year by year. I understand that the budget for the Sheffield Lord Mayor is already less than that of many other major cities and I am aware that the budget has taken a higher level of cut over the past two years than the average across the Council. I believe consideration needs to be given to what the Council and the City wants from the Lord Mayor and how he/she will operate in future if resources are to be reduced even further.

5. **Recommendation**

- 5.1 I would ask that the Council Meeting notes this report and gives consideration to the specific recommendations I have made.

Dr. Sylvia Dunkley,
Lord Mayor 2011/12

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