



LORD MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2010/2011



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 It was a great honour and privilege to serve Sheffield as Lord Mayor during 2010/2011.
- 2.2 I want to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and also, the chauffeurs, macebearer and the office staff in the Lord Mayor's Office for their help and support.
- 2.3 I also want to thank the attendants and security staff and those who work on the front Reception Desk who carried out their duties with a smile and with the utmost courtesy to all those who came into contact with them.
- 2.4 I would like to thank the Events Team, the City Centre Manager and all those in the background that made things happen. I have been amazed by the sheer number of compliments, from all variety of external organisations, regarding their professionalism. They do an immensely valuable job in bringing substantial numbers of people into Sheffield.
- 2.5 I thank the people of Sheffield, particularly the young and elderly who made the year really special for myself and my family.
- 2.6 I would particularly like to place on record my appreciation of the way in which my daughter, Nicola, has played her part as Lady Mayoress and my family for all their support. I think Nicola did a fantastic job, grew in stature and confidence and gave real added value to the office of Lord Mayor.

3. My Year In Office

- 3.1 The year was packed with all variety of engagements and the high regard in which the people of Sheffield hold the office of Lord Mayor was evident wherever we went.
- 3.2 The Lord Mayor provides a support for many organisations. Our attendance at their particular event/events was always appreciated and thought to be of great benefit.

- 3.3 Overwhelmingly, people and organisations respect the non-political position. It is important that the integrity of the Lord Mayor's office remains, as there are a few organisations/groups that would try to use the Office inappropriately for their own agendas.
- 3.4 The parlour is a grand and very impressive place in which to entertain and is used for the benefit of the City and people from all backgrounds both within the City and visitors to the City.
- 3.5 Engagements took Nicola and me all over Sheffield and sometimes beyond and it is wonderful to see all the sheer volume of activities that are taking place in both the voluntary and paid sectors.
- 3.6 It was an important part of my year to promote Sheffield both in an ambassadorial and proactive role. I hosted many events in the Town Hall including for the voluntary sector, commerce, overseas visitors, delegations, NHS, the Universities, etc.

Themes for the year

- 3.7 My first theme was around volunteers. I was amazed at the number of volunteers in Sheffield. More importantly it was the quality of the services being offered that will have a lasting impression on me. I really can't thank those people enough.
- 3.8 My second theme was around young people and their achievements. We visited numerous schools during the year, and saw a whole host of brilliant young people. I was particularly impressed with the dynamic leadership we have in the schools I visited. Colleagues are aware of my pride in being involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) in Sheffield. During the year I managed to get the Lord Mayor's Young Citizens Award established. This is essentially a precursor to the award proper. It has been much used in Special Schools and I had the honour of going to in school presentations, and witnessed the sheer joy on the faces of recipients in these special schools.

Charities

- 3.9 I was hoping to raise some £20,000 for my Charity Fund. The final total was over £25,000, with £10,000 going to both the main charities (St Luke's and Amy's House). Many other organisations will benefit from the remaining monies in the fund. Details of the amounts raised are being finalised and will be available in the near future. I would like to thank all the fund raisers and those who contributed and special thanks to Councillor Ray Satur MBE and other members of the Fund Raising Committee. A big thank you also to Dave Wickett and the staff at Kelham Island Brewery for their generosity and help during the year.

Events

- 3.10 I believe I did over a thousand events. I have picked a few to give a flavour of the year:-

Sheffield International Venues (SIV)

- 3.11 I met lots of visitors local, national and international who, without doubt, spoke very highly of the facilities and management. It was worth noting that SIV has an excellent reputation for encouraging use of all of the facilities by the public, clubs and community groups.

Sports

- 3.12 During my year in office I was invited to numerous events. Sadly the success (or more to the point, the lack of) our two main football teams is well known. I did however have the pleasure of seeing Chesterfield FC, Sheffield Sharks, Stocksbridge Steels FC, Steelers Ice Hockey, Blind Football, Ice and sports events etc. How can I forget the fabulous Snooker final?

Citizenship

- 3.13 Every week the Town Hall hosts at least one Citizenship Ceremony in the Ceremony Rooms of the Register Office. The High Sheriff, Lord Lieutenant and I attended as civic dignitaries and the group takes an Oath of Allegiance to the Queen and pledges loyalty to the United Kingdom. Individual certificates confirming British Nationality are given out and photographs are taken. Last year I spoke to many new citizens from a whole host of countries. All these people spoke highly of the City and are proud and thrilled to be counted as British citizens in Sheffield.

Tree Planting

- 3.14 Assisted by Leonnie Kapida and Tim Shortland, I was involved in the planting of trees all across Sheffield. Very often involving young people, I think it important that we continue to replace our trees and continue to have our City as the greenest in the Country.

The Universities

- 3.15 I hadn't realised until last year the added value that both Universities give to our City. They truly are two institutions to be proud of; their students, staff and willingness to interact with the wider community.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 There are a few areas in which I put forward some suggestions and these relate to Council meetings, Town Hall visits and corporate civic gifts.
- 4.2 I introduced a couple of changes to our monthly full Council meeting. An Officer from Deputy Chief Executive's, sat at the side of me to help, assist and advise, and I introduced a short break at around 4.00pm. Both of these I think worked well, and with fellow Councillors' support would urge that we continue.
- 4.3 The Town Hall is open for people to visit but this can be difficult during the week as it is a working Town Hall. Consideration should be given to it being open in the evenings and for more visits at the weekend.
- 4.4 I appreciate that with cuts and tight budgets things are difficult, but feel that consideration should be given for corporate civic gifts and that those gifts should be available as and when required and made in Sheffield. They could be made available for wider use within the Council.
- 4.5 The Lord Mayor's Junior Citizens Award be made a regular feature of the Mayoral year

5. Recommendation

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

Councillor Alan Law JP
Lord Mayor 2010/11