

City re-opens 12th April 2021



The Rt Hon Lord Mayor City of London and CEO Fortnum & Mason

Photography: Media Circus

Message from Charlotte Fletcher, Chair Cheapside Business Alliance and Alastair Moss, Chair, Planning & Transportation City of London Corporation

It was a pleasure to welcome the Lord Mayor to Cheapside this week to mark the reopening of non-essential shops and outdoor hospitality on 12 April.

While people are still urged to work from home if they can, and a number of restrictions do remain in place, this is an important milestone for the country and our businesses here in Cheapside.

The lifting of the stay local message means that we can finally see the light at the end of the very long COVID tunnel. It's been an incredibly challenging year for us all, but the gradual easing of restrictions gives us confidence that life will return once again to the City and we know that our fantastic business community stands ready to welcome people as they return safely.

It was fantastic to see the Lord Mayor in our footprint thanking businesses for the resilience shown over the past 12 months and talking about the safe reopening of the City. He visited a range of businesses including F&M, The Royal Exchange, Ekte in the Bloomberg Arcade and One New Change shopping centre. While we expect the return of office workers to be gradual, it's important that we support those businesses reopening now.

The City is made up of a vibrant eco-system of businesses that support each other, making the Square Mile attractive to both office workers and leisure visitors. As people start to venture into the City once again it's the shops, restaurants, cafes, cultural destinations and venues that breathe life into the streets and help make the City the bustling, global beacon it is. Now as we embark on this important recovery it's worth remembering this.

As you start to plan your return to London, we urge you to support your local business community. Whether it's a delicious artisan coffee, a world class meal with friends, or a luxurious treat for your partner – Cheapside has it all. The BID has worked tirelessly during the crisis to support businesses and our work will continue now as the road map moves forward.

Cheapside was a thriving, attractive destination before the pandemic and we are confident it will rise from the crisis stronger than ever. We've known for a long time at the CBA that together we are stronger – never before has this philosophy been more important.