

Committee Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee	Dated: 8 January 2019
Subject: Recommendations for Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee on the dress codes for events at the Mansion House.	Public
Report of: Vic Annells, Executive Director, The Mansion House & Central Criminal Court	For Decision
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Summary

This paper is a response to questions raised at the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee about dress codes for Mansion House dinners. It provides an opportunity to apply a more flexible approach to dress codes for formal events at the Mansion House. This paper was delayed pending developments on the Business and Industry Dinner which have now progressed.

Recommendation

Members are asked to recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee to:

- support the trial introduction of Lounge Suit as the dress code for the Business and Industry Dinner in March 2019.

Background

1. Each year there are a broad range of banquets, dinners and events that take place at the Mansion House. Many of these, whilst hosted by The Rt Honourable The Lord Mayor (Lord Mayor), are delivered in partnership with external stakeholders or organisations. These banquets, dinners and events can be placed into four categories, based on their status, as shown in the table below.
2. A dress code applies to each category. A dress code is regarded as an accepted or prevailing style of dress. It sets out the rules or guidelines specifying the expected or permitted style of dress for a social occasion, place of work, dinner etc. The current dress code for each category is also listed below.
3. The status, whether State Banquets or Other Occasions, and the dress code for the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Sheriffs, Common Councilmen, Officers, and Household Officers is laid out in the Ceremonials of the Corporation of London Handbook. It has been custom for the dress code for guests to be consistent with that for the Lord Mayor et al.

Mansion House Set Piece: State**Dress Code: White Tie**

State Banquets hosted by the Lord Mayor. Examples include Easter Banquet, Dinner to HM Judges and Dinner to Masters, Prime Wardens and Bailiffs.

Example – Easter Banquet: This is one of the ‘ceremonial and state’ dinners that has existed for many years and is for the Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to the Court of St James’s. The Banquet provides a prominent platform for the Foreign Secretary to address the Diplomatic Corps and speak on matters related to the UK’s foreign policy.

The Banquet is an opportunity for the Lord Mayor and Chair of Policy and Resources to build relationships with representatives of those in priority countries and markets to the City of London Corporation and those countries involved in their forthcoming programme of international visits. Ministers and Senior Officials from relevant government departments (principally FCO, DIT, DIFID and BIS) and Royal Household officials are also invited.

This important, ‘ceremonial and state’ Banquet is significant to the ongoing positive relationship between the City of London Corporation, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ambassadors and High Commissioners.

For these ‘ceremonial and state’ occasions, in order to maintain their appropriate status and influence, the preferred dress code is White Tie.

Mansion House Set Piece: Business / City**Dress Code: Black Tie**

Business / City Dinners hosted by the Lord Mayor. Examples include Business & Industry Dinner, International Trade Dinner, London Government Dinner, Dinner to Bankers and Merchants.

Example – International Trade Dinner: This is the newest of the ‘business dinners’ with a focus on promoting British trade and investment across the world. The dinner provides the Secretary of State of International Trade a platform to speak on UK trade relations, trade policy the UK’s place on the world stage. The event supports the growth of relationships between the UK’s financial services industry and the country’s diplomatic and international trade representatives.

Attended by HM Trade Commissioners, the Prime Minister’s Trade Envoys and the Board of Trade, this dinner, forges closer ties between the City of London Corporation and the Department for International Trade who are a senior stakeholder in the delivery of Lord Mayor’s and Chair of Policy and Resources domestic and international trade programme.

The dinner provides an opportunity for the City to emphasise its contribution to the nation’s trade in financial and professional services and strengthens relationships with a range of key firms. Business attendees are senior leaders drawn from major financial and professional services firms, the Department for International Trade’s Top 100 and international guests from target markets. For these formal dinners the preferred dress code is Black Tie.

Mansion House Dinners Dress Code: Recommendation for Lord Mayor's Approval

Dinners hosted by the Lord Mayor. Examples include Dragon Awards and Plow Monday.

Example – The Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards: Founded in 1987 by former Lord Mayor Sir David Rowe-Ham, the Awards have recognised and celebrated organisations making an exemplary impact in London's communities. Led by the Economic Development Office, the Awards showcase best practice and inspire others to get involved in their communities, ultimately leading to a more inclusive and sustainable London. As London's premier responsible business awards, they seek to inspire others by showcasing best practice in how businesses tackle social issues.

The Awards Ceremony attendees include Heart of the City members, city businesses, Chartered Institutes; Livery Companies, London Borough Council Leaders and Chief Executives and charitable organisations involved in awards nominations and winners.

For these dinners, the preferred dress code is subject to consultation between the organisers and the Lord Mayor.

Mansion House Private & Commercial

Private hire, Livery hire and commercial events at Mansion House. Examples include Livery Company Dinners, JP Morgan Dinner, Bloomberg Dinner etc.

Dress Code: Organiser's Discretion

Perspective

4. The Lord Mayor is an international ambassador for the UK's financial and professional services sector and, within the City, only the Sovereign takes precedence over the Lord Mayor, in protocol terms.
5. The Mansion House as the official residence of the Lord Mayor and as host to a number of City of London official functions, visiting Heads of State and Foreign Dignitaries on behalf of the Sovereign and the Government, is required to maintain a level of status and influence that appropriately reflects that of the Office of the Lord Mayor.
6. However, the Mansion House must be cognisant of ensuring that, whilst maintaining its status and influence, it reflects wider society, is inclusive and accessible and maintains relevance to modern society and business.

Approach

7. In this context, dress codes have evolved over many years and whilst still applied to many formal occasions, the contemporary view has flexed the more traditional codes to ensure that they are fit for the circumstance and the

occasion. Any dress code must not be discriminatory in respect of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 for age, disability, gender reassignment, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

8. Therefore, having reviewed the dress codes for the different categories, in consultation with event partners and stakeholders, it has been identified that there is opportunity to trial an alternative approach within 'Mansion House Set Piece: Business / City' events.

Proposal

9. Following the introduction of the International Trade Dinner, the Business and Industry Dinner has been recrafted to engage, through the Secretary of State for Business, a broad range of sectors outlined in the Government's Industrial Strategy alongside the financial and professional services of the City of London.
10. As a result of the change in approach to the Business and Industry Dinner to a broadly more domestic and all-encompassing business audience, there is an opportunity to trial a change in dress code at the same time.
11. This paper recommends trialling (subject to the formal agreement from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)), the introduction of Lounge Suit, for the Business and Industry Dinner in March 2019.
12. BEIS have been consulted and are supportive of an approach that helps engage with wider industry and appropriately reflects the audience for the dinner. Senior stakeholders, including the Confederation of British Industry who have previously utilised Lounge Suit for their major dinners, and others, are supportive of this move.

POSITIVES	RISKS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More reflective of the business audience• Change in format allows change of dress code• Support of BEIS and senior stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perceived decreased in status of the dinner• Less attractive to some attendees• Loss of Corporation influence

Conclusion

13. Members are asked to support the trial introduction of Lounge Suit as the dress code for the Business and Industry Dinner in March 2019.
14. Feedback from attendees and stakeholders will be sought to evaluate its impact. The Mansion House will keep the dress code for all events under continuous review.

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