

## **James Gets a Taste of Life as Liverpool's First Citizen**

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Liverpool apprentice James Bowman swapped his workplace for mayoral duties recently, as he shadowed Liverpool's Lord Mayor Steve Rotheram.

James, 20, spent the day with the Lord Mayor, accompanying him on official engagements comprising an appointment with UK Biobank Ltd, a visit to the Urban Gospel Arts Centre at Liverpool Lighthouse and the 'Wild' children's book launch at the Walker Art Gallery. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) North West worked with James' employers, Liverpool Biennial, and his training provider, Liverpool Community College to arrange the shadowing.

Community Arts and Creative Apprentice James works for the Liverpool Biennial while studying for his NVQ Level 3 Qualification in Community Arts Management. His background in community arts stood him in good stead as he accompanied the Lord Mayor to the event at the Liverpool Lighthouse, at which he spoke to local school children about an anti-violence song they were recording to be released as a single as part of a project called 'You're the Voice.'

James said: "I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of shadowing the Lord Mayor for the day, it was great to see the impact the Mayor has on the city and the local communities. It was particularly interesting from the point of view of my Apprenticeship to see the Mayor interacting with the community and to understand first hand the role that he plays within the city."

Sue Price, Regional Director of the National Apprenticeship Service, said  
"Apprenticeships attract the sort of people who really want to go somewhere in their

career, as both James and the Lord Mayor illustrate. Today was a great opportunity for James to put the skills he has been learning into practice, and see exactly where starting your career as an apprentice can lead.”

The Lord Mayor, himself a former apprentice bricklayer, commented: “Apprenticeships are a great way to gain valuable qualifications whilst acquiring the relevant skills through hands-on learning. James is a fine example of how much can be learnt through an Apprenticeship, I wish him all the best for the future and hope I will be hearing more about his work in the city in the next few years.”

### **Ends**

#### **Learning and Skills Council:**

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

LSC website: [www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)

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