

Council – 4th November 2020

Petitions Received from Members of the Public

Name	Petition	Cabinet Member
Kurtis Crossland	<p>Sheffield Liberal Democrats are calling for the Council to extend free school meals, not just for the October half term, <u>but also Christmas</u> so that no child living in poverty misses out - even during holidays and lockdown.</p> <p>– signed by 975 people.</p> <p><i>Response from Councillor Julie Dore:</i></p> <p><i>Thank you for organising and submitting an electronic petition which was received by the Council on 4th November, 2020. The petition contains 975 signatures, requesting the extension of free school meals over the Christmas holiday. As you are aware, in absence of National Government confirming school meals provision during half term (26th -30th October), we agreed to provide 22,700 supermarket vouchers to all eligible FSM pupils in the city. We are committed that as a city “no child should go hungry”.</i></p> <p><i>The national government through the Department for Work and Pension has recently launched a Winter Grant Scheme. This grant is supposed to provide direct assistance to vulnerable households, families with children and individuals. It is designed to support hardest hit families, individuals and food for Children. We are waiting on detailed guidance from the national government (due week commencing 23rd November) to fully understand the scope of the scheme. Meanwhile, we have already started planning to make food provision for FSM eligible children over the Christmas holidays.</i></p>	Julie Dore

Questions Received from Members of the Public

Name	Question	Cabinet Member
Kurtis Crossland	<p>1. Now the crossing on Station Road has been confirmed, when can we expect construction to start?</p> <p><i>Please see published minutes for answer.</i></p>	Robert Johnson
Sophie Thornton	<p>1. Does the Council still plan to reduce the number of housing offices across the city? If so, which ones are being considered for closure?</p> <p>2. Following from my question about the garage flytipping site behind Gervase Avenue, Lowedges, at the last full council, I received a written response confirming the site had been tidied and the doors closed over the remaining flytipping in the garages. Along with many residents, I would like to ask the Council to reconsider its approach and properly clean them out. Will you remove the rubbish and not just hide it behind closed doors?</p> <p><i>Please see published minutes for answers.</i></p>	Paul Wood
Russell Johnson	<p>1. At a meeting in March 2018, the then Chief Executive John Mothersole told me that an Amey sub-contracted or employed person suffered a broken bone in the course of their duties at Meersbrook Park Road on February 22 of that year. Please tell me where Mr Mothersole obtained this information and what corroboration was sought before repeating this as fact. (This to be sent as an FOIR if not satisfactorily answered at or soon after the FC Meeting)</p> <p>2. Has the Leader given any thought to the idea, gaining traction in social media, that SCC should demonstrate it's sincerity in the apology required by the LGO in it's excoriating Report by repaying Injunction costs extracted from peaceful tree campaigners. If so, what conclusion has she come to and why? Is the Leader aware that there is a widespread belief</p>	<p>Mark Jones</p> <p>Julie Dore</p>

	<p>that the Ruling Group does not appear to understand the concepts of atonement or remorse?</p> <p>3. In view of the long-term damage to my City's reputation resulting from years of administrative malefaction by SCC, will the Leader please consider stepping down now, thus avoiding further risk by waiting until next May</p> <p>4. Is the Council aware that, despite the Climate Emergency, and the declared intention to encourage electric vehicle ownership as a small step in acting on this crisis, Sheffield still has significantly fewer EV charging outlets than comparable Cities, and even than some much smaller towns? Why is this?</p> <p><i>Please see published minutes for answer.</i></p>	<p>Julie Dore</p> <p>Robert Johnson</p>
<p>Isabel O'Leary</p>	<p>The formal report by the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman dealing with a complaint made about SCC as part of the Council's 'Streets Ahead' programme of works recommended that Cabinet recognise the failings of the Council and provide a full apology both to the family of the complainant and to the Public of Sheffield.</p> <p>Having read the Resolutions of the Cabinet at the meeting on 21.10.20 I see that the Cabinet resolved to endorse the publication of a public unreserved apology accepting the findings of the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman investigation.</p> <p>Q1. Would the Leader agree that a fitting way to demonstrate both true understanding of and remorse for the damage done to Public trust in SCC would be to refund the Costs charged to individuals defending against the Injunction?</p> <p>A1. <i>The council has given a formal apology in response to the Ombudsman report, accepting the findings of the report, in addition to this both myself and the Cabinet Member have given an apology.</i></p>	<p>Julie Dore</p>

	<p><i>We have worked over the past two and a half years to work with campaign groups and stakeholders as a city to put in place a solution. The fact that we are now working towards a street tree strategy that has been co-produced with the groups who were previously at the centre of the dispute is a demonstration of how far we have come together. We are in a very different position today to where we were two and a half years ago and I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in making this happen.</i></p> <p><i>The costs you have referred to were accrued due to decisions that individuals have made around a High Court injunction.</i></p> <p>Q2. The recommendations to the Council by the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman include a requirement to improve transparency in relation to decision making. Would the Leader agree that an Independent Inquiry, completely independent from Officers and Elected Members who may have been party to the setting up and subsequent management of the £2.2 billion Streets Ahead Contract, would be the best way to demonstrate true openness and transparency in relation to decision making?</p> <p>A2. <i>The council has given a formal apology in response to the Ombudsman report, accepting the findings of the report, in addition to this both myself and the Cabinet Member have given an apology. This is in addition to the council publishing a document which was entitled 'Review of Tree Investigations- Lessons learned & Actions' which sets out how the council has learned lessons and the extensive work over the past two and a half years to develop a new approach including a new street tree strategy developed jointly with several partners including STAG.</i></p>	
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Ruth Hubbard	<p>1. As part of the "full apology" following the LGO report, do the people of Sheffield not deserve an explanation as to why the council took things "too far"? If not, why not?</p> <p><i>Please see published minutes for answer.</i></p>	Julie Dore
Nigel Slack	<p>1. When is a lockdown not a lockdown? When it does not include Schools, Colleges & Universities.</p> <p>Again the Government is failing the nation by insisting that educational establishment continue to provide one of the major vectors for the ongoing crisis of infections, hospital admissions and deaths in this Covid crisis.</p> <p>The pathetic need of Government to satisfy their masters in the Main Stream Media and the Corporate board rooms is killing people.</p> <p>It has been clear from the first lockdown that this approach is damaging both to public health (highest death toll in Europe) and to the economy (worst economic impact in Europe) and that this time will be no different. Taking these decision weeks after the science demanded it is the Governments fault and this City now needs to stand up and be counted.</p> <p>Will this city demand that HMG close the schools, colleges and Universities, as demanded by teaching unions and 'the science' to help suppress this uncontrolled</p>	Julie Dore

	<p>pandemic. They are contributing to community infections and as a result all age groups are now being affected. (students are even being asked to volunteer in care homes – what the hell?)</p> <p>It is entirely possible for the country to 'afford' a real national lockdown economically and to enable the people to work on ways to support the mental health of those worst affected. This government chooses not to do so and this Council follows orders.</p> <p>Why does this Council continue to follow flawed advice from HMG? When will Council take the right steps to protect students, staff and workers in education? Does Council think this supposed 'lockdown' will work without closing education? What do Council say to those working in education and families of students who do not have faith in the Covid safety measures in place? (measures that have failed and made schools and higher education key vectors for the spread of the virus over the last two months)</p> <p><i>Please see published minutes for answers.</i></p>	
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