

Public Questions and Statements – Strategy and Resources Policy Committee

Meeting Date: 20/11/2024

Questions (Committee Remit)

From: Louis Farrington

Question:

20 November is Red Wednesday, a campaign that seeks to raise awareness of the issue of religious persecution, particularly of Christians and other ethnic minorities. Sheffield is a City of Sanctuary and welcomes refugees, some of which have fled religious persecution. This campaign runs every year in November and provides an opportunity for the City to stand in solidarity with these refugees and to raise awareness of this issue.

Please can I ask:

- i.) What factors the Strategy and Resources and Policy Committee or Council consider in supporting awareness days?
- ii.) When do the Strategy and Resources and Policy Committee or Council hope to decide if Red Wednesday can be considered for inclusion in the awareness days for 2025?
- iii.) how the Council mark awareness days and whether this can extend to buildings being lit or statements being issued?

Response:

- i) The Strategy and Resources Policy Committee determines the annual calendar of Awareness Days as part of the annual Equalities Report. The report was considered by the committee in March 2024 ([Draft Protocol for Cabinet Reports](#)). The awareness days agreed and the factors for including them are set out in Appendix 5 of the report. The key factors considered are the strategic fit with the agreed Equality Objectives, the level of impact that is likely to be achieved, and the cost of delivering effective activity.
- ii) As part of the consideration of the Annual Equalities Report, likely to be in February 2025.
- iii) The Council marks different awareness days in different ways, depending on the context, involvement and input from the relevant community and staff networks. Lighting buildings can be considered as part of this although this needs to be balanced against the cost of doing this and the likely impact that will be achieved. Statements can also be issued if this is considered an effective contribution to raising awareness.

Supplementary Question: Not received

Response:

Questions (Published Agenda) None Received

Statements (Committee Remit) None Received

Statements (Published Agenda) None Received