

RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE MEETING

1. TO CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE STREET TREE INQUIRY ON THE CITY, SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL AND COUNCILLORS INVOLVED IN THE DECISION MAKING AT THAT TIME.

RESOLVED: That this Council:

1. accepts:
 - a. all the conclusions of the inquiry;
 - b. all the recommendations of the inquiry;
 - c. that we can all use this as a moment in time to reflect upon the broader implications for new ways of working across the Council;
2. believes the committee system is fundamentally different from the cabinet system and requires that committee chairs abide by the rules and spirit of new open, transparent and democratic ways of working and accepts the decision of the people of Sheffield expressed through the governance referendum;
3. commits to co-creation of solutions in relation to the inquiry including but not limited to;
 - a. mechanisms that will provide better accountability for actions of councillors, officers and other stakeholders;
 - b. actions which meet each recommendation in the Inquiry Report; and
4. resolves that Strategy and Resources Policy Committee; Audit and Standards Committee, Governance Committee and other committees as appropriate will be used as vehicles to drive this process in an open and transparent way.
5. notes the Lowcock report was commissioned as part of negotiations that took place in forming the Co-Operative Executive between Greens and Labour in 2021-2022 and that no-overall-control has been instrumental in introducing new ways of collaboration;
6. believes without the Council being in no-overall-control, the Lowcock report would not have been commissioned;
7. notes the Streets Ahead contract was a missed opportunity to redesign Sheffield's transport infrastructure when the decision to replace the infrastructure on a like-for-like basis was made and believes that many of the failings in policy within the contract can be attributed to a cabinet system that isolates an individual cabinet member;

8. requests Strategy and Resources Policy Committee install a plaque in the entrance of the Town Hall (alongside the Kinder Scout mass trespass plaque) in recognition of those who fought for our environmental heritage and were vindicated, and to serve as a reminder to all elected members that this failure of leadership will never happen again; and
9. requests that a timescale for implementing all actions arising from this EGM will be published no later than the end of June 2023.
10. believes the committee system is an important part of a necessary broad cultural transformation, and in particular: -
 - a. accepts and welcomes the decision of the people of Sheffield expressed through the governance referendum;
 - b. expects committee chairs and others to abide by the rules and spirit of new, open, transparent and democratic ways of working;
 - c. believes that the Nolan principles apply equally to both the cabinet and committee system, and governance and culture should ensure that the Nolan principles are upheld; and
 - d. believes that following the vindication of concerned citizens who were stonewalled, accused of lying and subject to legal action, this Council must understand how processes, culture and individual actions led to these abuses of power, in order to ensure that accountable individuals take full responsibility and that the Council's processes and culture prevent such abuses in future.
11. condemns the harms identified by Sir Mark Lowcock, such as:-
 - a. the distressing experience of being arrested for protestors, many of whom experienced feelings of grief, anger and a lack of safety in the months and years afterwards;
 - b. the Council's wider hostile approach to protestors, which was dishonest, bullying, and destructive of public trust, caused significant distress, and was the "fuel that drove the protests";
 - c. the damage to Sheffield's reputation nationally and internationally, which was not understood by cabinet members at the time and continues to negatively influence perceptions of Sheffield; and
 - d. the harm to Council members of staff and Amey contractors, including to their career progression, mental and physical health, harassment in and out of work, and personal relationships, and notes that this was exacerbated by a lack of coordination and "political decisions quietly being blamed on officers" and questions whether the Council fulfilled its statutory duty of care to its employees; and

12. believes that for individuals who were council cabinet members in the civic years 2015/16 to 2017/18, resignation from public office would be an appropriate indication of acceptance of responsibility for the harms caused.

This page is intentionally left blank