

*Leader of the Council - Councillor Chris Read*  
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Commissioner Sir Derek Myers  
Lead Commissioner  
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council  
Riverside House  
Main Street  
Rotherham  
S60 1AE

18 November 2015

Dear Commissioner Sir Derek

Thank you for your letter dated 24 September proposing that the number of Advisory Cabinet members be increased from five to eight. I have given this a great deal of consideration and will be able to confirm with you over the next few days who these new members will be.

It is my intention to keep such a Cabinet in place after May's election, subject to the results of the elections. However, the Labour Group will need to be able to re-elect the Leader and Deputy Leader (although I believe this will be just a formality), as there is no provision within national Labour Party rules to avoid this.

I welcome the appointment of the new Chief Executive, and the recent positive Local Government Association health checks of services. In light of these developments, I am asking if you would consider an early restoration of executive powers to members in a number of areas where the council is in good working order.

Specifically, I would propose:

- Education (including school admissions and appeals, and 14 to 19 education)
- Integrated Youth Support Service
- Public Health
- Leisure (including parks and green spaces, libraries and the arts)
- Housing
- Planning policy
- Transportation and highways maintenance
- Area assemblies and community engagement
- ICT
- Legal and democratic services

(continued ...)

- Corporate communications
- Procurement
- Environmental health
- Parking
- Emergency planning
- Community cohesion and equalities
- Drainage
- Building regulation
- Policy arising from the Sheffield City Region
- Budget control in these areas and budget planning

If you are agreeable to commence the return of these powers, could I propose that you consider a commensurate increase in the proportion of Special Responsibility Allowances paid to Cabinet members, rising to 80% of the figures stipulated in the schedule of members' allowances. This would recognise the return of executive powers and the time commitment made by Cabinet members, and would ensure that any member joining the Cabinet would not be financially disadvantaged by losing an SRA connected to any other council role.

I welcome moving formal Cabinet meetings to take place in public from the new year and have already met with the Interim Monitoring Officer to begin to arrange the practicalities of such an arrangement.

I would welcome your comments relating to the above and, obviously, I am happy to discuss this with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Read', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Councillor Chris Read  
Leader of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council