

**Imagine
a Sheffield
where...**

**...your council
listens to you**

**We can,
we've signed
- will you?**

Sheffield People's Petition for a committee system



www.itsoursheffield.co.uk/petition
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SO, WHAT'S THIS SHEFFIELD PEOPLE'S PETITION ALL ABOUT?

It's about the people of Sheffield having their say on how the council works.

WHY, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Right now, only 10 out of 84 councillors – the leader and a hand-picked cabinet – have the power to make nearly all the major council decisions.

ONLY 10? THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT! I VOTE FOR A COUNCILLOR TO REPRESENT ME, CAN THEY?

Shocking, isn't it? The other 74 councillors, from all parties, have little or no power to make decisions. In fact your councillor can't really represent you, because they can't question decisions at cabinet meetings. Currently only 7 areas of Sheffield are represented by the cabinet councillors and many decisions are made behind closed doors even before cabinet meetings.

ARE ALL COUNCILS LIKE THIS? THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE DEMOCRACY AT ALL!

There are some cities that use a modern committee system; where councillors focus on cooperating together, with their communities and outside experts, to make better informed decisions for their city. That means those cities can work much better for the people, and can be more resilient against the effects of austerity.

THAT SOUNDS A BIT BETTER.

We think so too. In a community-minded city like ours, it seems really odd for such a small group of people to be making top-down decisions. It just doesn't fit with what Sheffield is like.

SO WHERE DOES THE PETITION COME IN?

Well, when we get 20,956 signatures (5% of the local voters) the petition will have the power, by legal force under the Localism Act 2011, to make the council ask you the voters, by a referendum, how YOU want the council to run – the current leader and cabinet system or using a more democratic committee system?

THAT SOUNDS A LOT BETTER!

Exactly! Please sign the petition and also ask your friends, family and neighbours to sign too!



It's Our City! is a non party-political community organisation.

For more information and to get involved:

www.itsoursheffield.co.uk

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