

# SHEFFIELD PEOPLE'S REFERENDUM

Vote for a  
change

6th May 2021



change begins here

## Why are we having a referendum?

In 2019, a petition of over 26,000 Sheffield voters was submitted to the council. This petition called for the Sheffield public to decide how our city council works (its governance), via a referendum. The referendum will be an additional question at our next local elections on May 6th 2021.

Citizens were given the power to decide how their council is run by the Localism Act 2011. After the petition was successful, Sheffield City Council lost the right to decide the way they work.

## It's now in our hands - all of Sheffield's voters.

### So what are our choices?

**Well**, we could keep things the way they are now for another ten years with the 'Leader & Cabinet'.

Currently we have a top-down 'Strong Leader' and Cabinet system of governance. Decision-making power is held by the Leader of the Council - who chooses 9 other cabinet members (only from their party).

This small group holds the power to make almost all decisions. Almost all the councillors you vote for across the city are excluded from decision-making.

Under the current 'Leader and Cabinet' model, there has been a reduction in working together and decision-making at a community level - even more power has risen to the top. Communities do not feel listened to.

**Or, on 7th May we can vote to change to a more democratic way of working, by voting 'Committee'.**

In a Modern Committee system, all 84 councillors will have power to properly represent their areas. Decisions will be made by small committees of councillors from all parties, working together with experts and communities. All of our councillors will have a voice to represent the communities they serve - not just the chosen few.

Power and resources for decision-making in local communities can also be built into a committee system. This means more decisions can be taken closer to the people affected rather than a small group behind closed doors who may be remote and disconnected.

**Time to vote for a change!**

**Vote for**

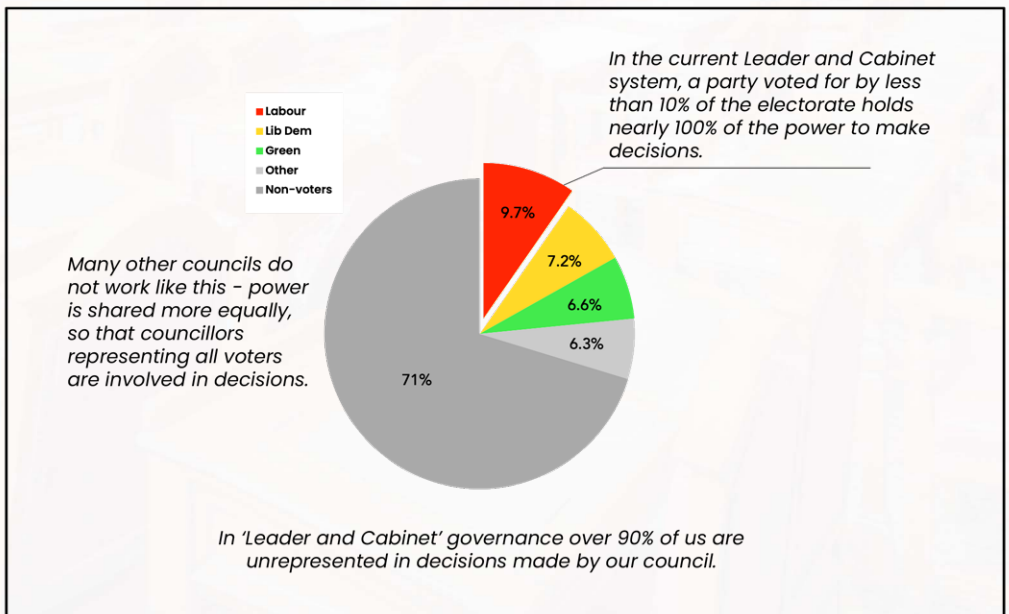
**COMMITTEES**



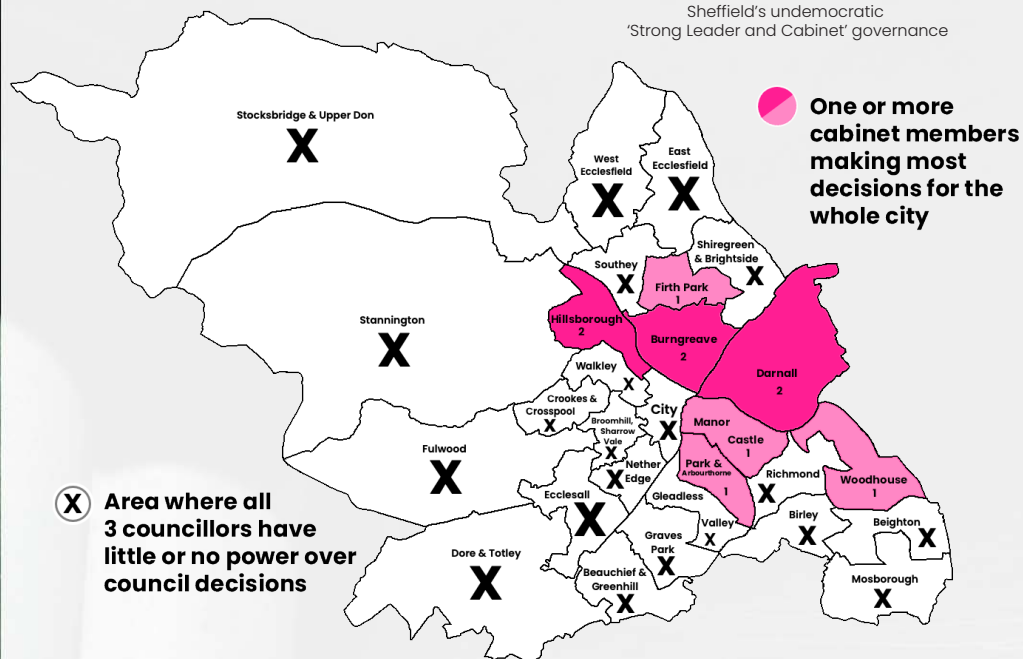
## What difference will changing to a committee system make?

- All 84 councillors from across Sheffield will have power, not just 10. All the councillors we vote for will be able to work for us effectively.
- Councillors from different parties will have to work together for the good of the city and decisions will be clearer, more open and transparent.
- All communities can have a voice and be represented in decision-making. What is the point of voting if our councillors are excluded and can't speak up for us?
- Many community concerns can be much better addressed in, and by, communities.
- A committee system can be much more responsive and dynamic and for issues we will face in the future.
- The details of how the committee system works can be improved in the light of experience, so it can adapt to the needs of the city.
- Other councils have moved to a committee system and they have made many improvements in local democracy.

## Love your city, vote committee!



Sheffield's undemocratic  
'Strong Leader and Cabinet' governance



Vote for

COMMITTEES



You can find more detailed information and FAQs about why Sheffield communities want to see change, about the choices available to us, and about Sheffield People's Referendum at [www.itsoursheffield.co.uk](http://www.itsoursheffield.co.uk)



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*It's Our City!* is a community-led citizens network in Sheffield, open to all. We include members of all political parties, but are mostly not in political parties – we are just ordinary Sheffield residents and we work independently of political parties. We believe in working together and making common cause across all our differences for the benefit of Sheffield. We do not work on issues that will harm or disrespect particular groups – we will defend communities who face discrimination.