

Motions on Notice

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Council Members are asked to consider the under-mentioned Motions:-

(i) Period Dignity

Periods are natural and female health is important; neither should be taboo subjects, in this council chamber or anywhere else. Having a period should not be considered a luxury as it is not a choice but a decades-long and expensive reality of being a woman.

Everyone who needs sanitary products – including tampons, towels, pads, and other items – should have access to them.

In recognising this basic right this Council notes that:

- One in 10 girls and women aged 14-21 are unable to afford sanitary products.
- Almost 140,000 girls and young women, particularly amongst girls who are in receipt of Free School Meals, have missed school in the UK the last year because they cannot afford to buy sanitary products.
- 91% of girls and young women say that they have been asked to buy a pad or tampon for a friend.

This council therefore agrees to work with its Partners to ensure that nobody in Sunderland suffers through:

- provision of free sanitary products for all who need them in all civic buildings at the earliest opportunity
- local schools, including primary schools given the increasing number of girls beginning their periods as early as age 8, maintaining a provision of sanitary products for pupils
- local employers being encouraged to provide them on site for staff and visitors.

Councillor K. Chequer
Councillor J. Kelly
Councillor A. Samuels
Councillor A. Wilson
Councillor D. Waller
Councillor M. Mordey
Councillor V. O'Neil
Councillor M. Beck
Councillor D. Dixon

(ii) Justice for Orgreave Miners

Sunderland City Council believes that issues relating to events at the picketing of Orgreave on 18 June 1984 are of both local and national importance.

In Sunderland, miners and their families were adversely affected by the events of that day in terms of wrongful arrest, false imprisonment, ill-health, family breakdown and termination of employment and as a direct result of policing tactics at Orgreave. A full investigation into the military style policing used on that day is long overdue and only a full public inquiry can fully investigate this.

Sunderland City Council therefore calls on the Home Secretary to order a full public inquiry into the deployment and actions of the police on 18 June 1984, and to hold meaningful discussions with the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign, The NUM and concerned MPs.

Councillor K. Johnston
Councillor J Cunningham
Councillor J. Heron
Councillor A. Samuels
Councillor K. Chequer
Councillor A. Wilson
Councillor D. Waller
Councillor M. Mordey
Councillor V. O'Neil
Councillor M. Beck
Councillor D. Dixon
Councillor J. Kelly

(iii) Condition of the City Centre

This Council recognises the frustration of residents in the City at the condition of the city centre, compared to other towns and cities, and resolves to bring forward ambitious plans to breathe new life into it in 2019.

Councillor R. Oliver
Councillor P. Wood
Councillor G. Howe
Councillor R. Francis

(iv) **Commemorating Sunderland's Past with Blue Plaques**

Sunderland has a rich history but sadly many important figures who shaped the city are not well remembered today. Admittedly Sunderland does have some Blue Plaques but important figures from the history of the city are left neglected by them. Recently English Heritage have generated controversy by attempting to put up a Blue Plaque to Gertrude Bell in London despite her being born in Washington and not really having much of a connection to London. Gertrude is also featured at the moment in the BBC2 series Icons as one of the iconic people of the twentieth-century for her work as a diplomat and archaeologist. The Council notes that Sunderland should commemorate with a Blue Plaque this notable resident.

However, she is not the only resident of note without a memorial. Investors, composers and athletes have all been produced by Sunderland and it is only right that they should be remembered. Therefore, we propose that Sunderland Council looks into allowing the people of the city to nominate past residents and if appropriate put up a Blue Plaque to commemorate them.

Councillor W. Blackett
Councillor R. Oliver
Councillor G. Howe
Councillor R. Francis

(v) **The Council Buffet or: How I Learned to Stop Troughing and Love the Packed Lunch**

This Council recognizes that residents of Sunderland feel the provision of meals to Councillors after meetings is not a justifiable use of taxpayers' money.

Accordingly, Council resolves to end the provision of meals after meetings for Councillors and their guests, and scrap the facility for Councillors to make subsistence expenses claims in cases other than an overnight stay.

Councillor N. Hodson
Councillor S. O'Brien
Councillor M. Haswell
Councillor A. Wood

