

NOTICE OF MOTION	Date of Council Meeting: 10/09/25
	Mover: Councillor Steele
	Seconded: Councillor Clarke
	Title of Motion: Rotherham Council Welcomes the Orgreave Inquiry - <i>Affirming Commitment to Justice, Transparency, and Community Healing</i>

Summary/Background:

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council acknowledges the historic significance of the Orgreave events and the need for a comprehensive inquiry to address longstanding concerns within the community. This resolution expresses the Council's unequivocal support for the Orgreave inquiry, outlines the historical context, articulates the reasons for supporting such an investigation, and reaffirms the Council's commitment to justice, healing, and reconciliation within the borough and beyond.

The events at Orgreave on 18th June 1984 were a pivotal moment during the UK miners' strike of 1984–1985. On that day, striking miners assembled near the Orgreave coking plant in South Yorkshire, protesting against pit closures and the wider policies threatening their livelihoods and community stability. They were met by thousands of police officers, on foot, in riot gear and on horseback. The confrontation between the miners and police culminated in scenes of violence, mass arrests, and accusations of misconduct, which have echoed through the decades since.

For years, campaigners, former miners and their families have sought a full independent inquiry into the policing and subsequent legal proceedings at Orgreave. Concerns have focused on issues including:

- Allegations of excessive use of force by police toward striking miners
- Claims of wrongful arrest and prosecution
- Accusations of evidence fabrication and perjury
- The broader context of state intervention in industrial disputes
- The lasting impact on the wellbeing and reputation of those involved and their communities.

Rotherham Council's Position

As a Local Authority directly affected by the legacy of the miners' strike and its aftermath, Rotherham Council has a moral and civic responsibility to support all efforts aimed at truth and reconciliation. The Council recognises that the events at

Orgreave were not isolated, but part of a larger narrative affecting many mining communities, including those within Rotherham borough.

The Council therefore welcomes the announcement of an Orgreave inquiry. We stand in solidarity with all those seeking answers, believing strongly that a transparent investigation can help to:

- Establish the facts surrounding the events of 18th June 1984
- Ensure accountability where wrongdoing is found
- Restore public faith in our policing and legal systems Supporting the Community.

The Council recognises that the trauma experienced at Orgreave and throughout the miners' strike continues to impact on local residents. Many families lost livelihoods, suffered legal consequences, or faced social ostracism as a direct result of their involvement.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Officially welcome and support the for Orgreave inquiry.
2. Encourage full co-operation from all relevant parties, including local residents, former miners, police, and legal representatives.
3. Work with neighbouring authorities in South Yorkshire to coordinate efforts and share best practice in supporting affected communities.