

## Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham

## Rotherham Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham, South Yorkshire. S60 2TH Telephone 01709 822722/1 Facsimile 01709 822734

8th March, 2018.

Councillor S. Sansome.

Dear Councillor Sansome,

Council – 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2018

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the last Council Meeting so it was recommended I respond to the question you submitted in writing.

You referred to the re-starting of "N" Furnace and if I could reassure Members that I would be working with Liberty to protect the current jobs and any further recruitment

Like you I think this is excellent news and I would like to thank you for your continued interest in the local economy and especially the steel industry. I can confirm that the Council will continue to work with Liberty Steel and through the Chief Executive the Council regularly meets with senior Liberty Officials.

Last month Liberty reported that it intended to increase UK output from just over one million tonnes per annum to five million tonnes within five years (equivalent to half of the UK's current production).

This is great news for workers, their families and everyone across Rotherham to see real, tangible evidence that the Rotherham operations are at the heart of plans to move the business forward – it has been a long time since we have been able to look forward with such positivity towards the future of steel making in our town. Re-starting "N" Furnace is a major commitment and the latest in a string of good news announcements that show manufacturing, far from being thing of the past, has a bright future in our town.

I trust this answers your question, but if I can help further in any way please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

## D. Lelliott

Councillor Denise Lelliott, Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy.