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30 May 2025

Councillor Simon Ball  
Elected Member

Via email: [simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Ball

### **Council Meeting – Wednesday 21 May 2025**

Thank you for your question at the Council Meeting on 21 May 2025. I have set out your question and my response below.

***Following the devastating 2022 Kiveton Park illegal waste site fire, which required a two-month multi-agency response and exposed critical safety failures, why has your Labour administration failed to enforce robust bylaws or secure additional SYFR resources to prevent future industrial blazes in Rotherham, and what immediate, measurable actions will you commit to at this meeting?***

Since the incident at Kiveton Park, we have undertaken the following in the Rotherham Borough:

- SYFR chaired several TCG Meetings with multi agency partners in early 2024. These considered learning from the incident, recovery for Kiveton and prevention of future incidents, amongst other elements.
- SYFR facilitated and undertook a full, multi-agency, formal debrief following the incident at Kiveton Park, where learning was identified through our SHOAL internal debriefing platform and appropriate actions allocated.
- Learning, specifically from Kiveton Park (and other waste fire incidents), has been shared within the wider internal service via our monthly Firefighter Snapshot.
- As a service we have qualified and continue to maintain the competence of 3 x specific Waste Tactical Advisor Officers, in order to effectively respond to future incidents.
- Within Rotherham District, we continue to undertake Site Specific Risk Inspections (SSRI) at Waste Sites, which are considered medium risk premises. Each watch must undertake 3 SSRIs per month (not waste specific) at a range of identified sites within Rotherham District.
- A medium risk SSRI would require one initial site visit, where the SSRI would be created and would include information such site plans, water supplies, operational considerations, tactical plans, risks, hazards etc. Following the creation of this document, a medium risk would require a review and update every three years.



- SSRIs have also been completed on units surrounding the Kiveton Park waste fire premises, on the same industrial estate.
- SYFR Business Fire Safety department have undertaken BFS Inspections on the Industrial Estate, following the incident.
- Waste fires are a theme on our Organisational Exercise Planner for 2025.

You were a member of the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority between May 2022 and May 2024 so I expect you are aware of some of this work already.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Cameron McKiernan  
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority