

Email from Cllr Martyn Parker (Rotherham Independent Group Leader)

Dear Sir

With regards to the decision to return powers to Rotherham Borough Council, being the leader of the independent group on RMBC I have to disagree with this decision. To be able to return powers to this council we must have first ensured that anybody with any responsibility has been held responsible for the decisions they have made in the past.

To date, I am unaware of any inquiry which holds the then leader of the council Roger Stone and any other councillor responsible. In my opinion this council cannot move forward until the people of Rotherham have answers to these questions. The views expressed to me by the general public is that once again the political elite are not being held to account.

There are councillors that have been placed in positions of authority where they are making moral judgements about others and the Jay report emphatically states that any councillor that attended the seminar regarding child sex exploitation in 2005 could not have left that meeting without knowing exactly what was happening in Rotherham, but these councillors walked away from this seminar and did absolutely nothing and did not question or pursue matters further until the release of the Jay report. At the very least this calls their judgement into question and their moral standards. I am surprised that no councillor has been brought to task for dereliction of duty or misconduct in a public office.

Although I believe the commissioners are doing an excellent job, they are not based in the council permanently and as someone who attends numerous council meetings daily it is my opinion from the comments that I overhear that there are a number of labour councillors that still do not believe they bear any responsibility for what has happened in Rotherham and their arrogance somewhat astounds me.

I also believe having spoke to some members of the public that as an unintended consequence, this announcement so near to the all out local elections in May 2016 has given the labour group an advantaged vote of confidence which can be used to their advantage.

If you would like to discuss any of these concerns further I can be contacted on [omitted].

Regards

Cllr Martyn Parker
Leader Rotherham Independent Group
Silverwood Ward RMBC