



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

**Councillor Mike Bower
Leader
Sheffield City Council**

Leader's Office

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26 Febniary 1996

Yemeni Community Association
Vestry Hall
43 Attercliffe
Sheffield
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Dear Friends

**RE: INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL'S
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE YEMENI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

On behalf of Sheffield City Council I am very pleased to accept the findings of the independent enquiry which exonerated the Yemeni Community Association and its officers from any wrong doing.

I'm sure you understand that the Council has a duty to take seriously and investigate properly any complaint about the operation of any project in which it is involved, especially where public money is being used. The Council also recognises that it needs to help and support voluntary groups which may not have the skills, or resources to manage complex systems and account for their actions as thoroughly as is possible in public services.

In dealing with the YCA, after serious allegations were made by some of its former officers, the Council now recognises that it did not strike the right balance between these two considerations and as a result pursued its investigations of the persistent complaints without taking enough account of the problems caused for the individual officers of the Association, the organisation itself and the Yemeni Community as a whole.

The Council regrets that it did not deal with its enquiries more quickly and in a way which took greater account of the continuing needs of the community and the Association which serves it and apologises to all those who have suffered as a result.

I hope that it will now be possible to recreate the positive relationship which existed before the complaints were made. The Council supports the YCA fully and is happy to work in partnership on its future development.

Yours faithfully,

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**MIKE BOWER
LEADER, SHEFFIELD**

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