

12 JULY 2007

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

**BUDGET PROPOSALS**

“This council notes that the new Conservative Minority Administration was elected on a pledge to peg Council Tax at the level of inflation.

Furthermore, it notes that the Conservatives did not set out any detailed and costed alternative budget proposals for the city when the council set its budget on February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2007, despite having full access to all of the council’s financial information. The only proposal put forward by the Conservatives was for new traffic signals at one junction in the city.

It further notes that at the Council’s Budget meeting, the Conservative Finance Spokesperson praised Hammersmith and Fulham Council as an example of good practice and one that the Brighton & Hove Conservative Councillors would wish to follow, despite the fact that the new Conservative Administration on Hammersmith & Fulham cut a total of £34m from services to vulnerable people, including £1.4m from services to older people, £540, 000 from children’s play and youth services, £915,000 from street cleaning and £30,000 from services to the homeless.

This council wishes to express its concern that the Conservative Administration of the City Council is not being open and transparent with local tax payers about its financial plans and that its commitment for Council Tax linked to inflation could mean year on year cuts totalling at least £13.5m over the next four years.

It calls on the Leader of the Council to;

- Consider bringing forward a report to Policy & Resources Committee at the earliest opportunity setting out the Administration’s budget strategy.
- Undertake consultation with the Older Peoples’ Council and other representatives of older people, and representatives of vulnerable children before any decisions are made concerning reductions in or charge increases for those groups.”

Proposed by: Cllr Gill Mitchell

Seconded by: Cllr Warren Morgan

Supported by: Cllrs Pat Hawkes, Les Hamilton, Anne Meadows, Jeane Lepper, Christine Simpson, Mo Marsh, Craig Turton, Melanie Davis.

