



**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

# **COUNCIL ADDENDUM**

**4.30PM, THURSDAY, 24 MARCH 2011**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL**



## **ADDENDUM**

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**WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed for questions submitted by a member of the public who either lives or works in the area of the authority at each ordinary meeting of the Council.

Every question shall be put and answered without discussion, but the person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion.

The following written questions have been received from members of the public.

**(a) Mr Nigel Jenner**

“With the wonderful development and creation of the new facilities at the Sussex County Cricket Ground - What initiatives and leads have the Council taken in developing provision for the local children and young people with the Cricket club?”

**Councillor Smith, Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation & Tourism will reply.**

**(b) Mr Chris Cooke**

“Can the Council confirm what the long term plans are for the Old Market building on Circus Street? The building is literally falling apart due to lack of use, but with adequate resources could be converted into a valuable community asset for the Turner neighbourhood.”

**Councillor Fallon-Khan, Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Employment & Major Projects will reply.**

**(c) Ms Diane Marks**

“With changes to benefits many disabled people are going to be looking for work for the first time in Brighton. Only one in three visually impaired adults are currently in work. What is Brighton and Hove Council planning on doing to ensure that there is support available for this group to help them into work and off benefits in line with the objectives set out in the corporate plan?”

**Councillor Simson, Cabinet Member for Community Affairs, Inclusion and Internal Relations will reply.**

**(d) Ms Tracey Hill**

"What action is the Council planning to take to prevent drivers driving along the pavements in Elm Grove, a practice that is dangerous for pedestrians, particularly parents and children making their way to and from Elm Grove School?"

**Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment will reply.**

**(e) Mr Leo Barraclough**

"In Hanover and Elm Grove ward many private landlords have been erecting large conservatories to provide an extra room in Houses in Multiple Occupation. The reason they do this is to make the living room into another bedroom, and so fit more tenants – usually students – into the property, and they don't need planning permission to do this. This is blighting the area as it destroys the green spaces between houses. What measures will the council take to tackle this issue?"

**Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment will reply.**

**(f) Mr Luke Walter**

"Does the Council think it's fair that people using the 23 and 25 bus pay only £2.50 but people on every other Brighton & Hove bus pay £3.70 for a day ticket, and if not, what is the Council going to do to ensure that some areas of the city don't end up subsidising other areas so that Brighton & Hove Buses can afford to price-match The Big Lemon?"

**Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment will reply.**

**(g) Mr Tim Lunnon**

"Currently if a family wishes to travel by bus, then every child will have to pay half the price of an Adult ticket, so it is actually financially beneficial to get a family into town by car. However if a child has the bus-id card, available freely from the bus company, they can travel for 20p when with an Adult, making it far cheaper. I ask the Cabinet Member for the environment to lobby Brighton and Hove Bus Company to remove the need for the bus ID card, to allow all children, when with adults to travel for 20p."

**Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment will reply.**

**(h) Ms Maggie O'Connor**

“Councillors last time voted £200,000 to the Connexions service specifically in order to ensure there are as many LDD and NEET delivery posts as possible. We understand that officers are planning to use the money for:

- (1) Voluntary Sector transition i.e. contracts that must have been predicted within their present budget analysis, and
- (2) Other NON Connexions posts.

Can we be assured that the money will now be used so that all BHCC Connexions staff who apply for LDD or Employability delivery posts are offered a job?”

**Councillor Brown, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People will reply.**





<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 84(a)</b>
24 March 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

**PETITION REPORT**

**LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT**

**ROYAL SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL PARKING**

Add further recommendations, as shown in bold italics:

**Recommendation**

2.1 That the petition is referred to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration, ***with the following additional recommendations;***

- (i) ***That the council works with Brighton, Hove and Sussex NHS Hospital Trust to ensure that the number of 450 additional staff that will be working at the Royal Sussex County Hospital site once the development is complete is taken into account when setting final car-parking numbers;***
- (ii) ***That the council actively encourages the Trust to significantly increase the frequency and capacity of the 40X bus;***
- (iii) ***That the council completes an area-wide feasibility study to determine whether through-traffic can be diverted away from the immediate vicinity of the hospital in accordance with the council's agreed LDF Core Strategy document; and***
- (iv) ***That the council works with the hospital Trust and other large employers in the city to provide genuine sustainable travel modes and choices for their workforce.***

Proposed by: Cllr Craig Turton

Seconded by: Cllr Warren Morgan



<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 84(a)</b>
24 March 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

**PETITION REPORT**

**GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT**

**ROYAL SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL PARKING**

Add additional wording at the end of the recommendation, as shown in bold italics:

**Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the petition is referred to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration, ***about how to improve access to the hospital for everyone, in particular in light of the proposed 3Ts development. This will include making public transport more accessible through ensuring the hospital promotes bus routes and working with bus and taxi companies to make sure they can both stop in or very near the hospital as well as making it easier to access the hospital by foot or bike. This will help to ease congestion and improve air quality around the hospital and ensure that emergency vehicles can reach the hospital more quickly and safely.***

Proposed by: Cllr Rachel Fryer

Seconded by: Cllr Ian Davey



<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 84(b)</b>
24 March 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

**PETITION REPORT**

**LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT**

**KEEP BRIGHTON UNIQUE**

Add further recommendations, as shown in bold italics:

**Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the petition is referred to the Cabinet Meeting for consideration, ***with the following additional recommendations;***
- (i) That the council uses its existing planning powers to promote the unique aspects of the city and enhances the special character of retail areas with a mix of retail uses;***
  - (ii) That the council uses its licensing and enforcement powers to ensure a good standard of maintenance of buildings and safety and security for residents and shoppers in retail areas; and***
  - (iii) That the council joins forces and works with other councils that are similarly concerned with this issue to engage the government in a dialogue on changes to the planning system that would include:***
    - a) possible separate classes for supermarkets and smaller shops;***
    - b) the introduction of controls for the merging of smaller retail units; and,***
    - c) reviewing how the application of restrictive covenants could negatively lead to premises remaining empty.***

Proposed by: Cllr Gill Mitchell

Seconded by: Cllr Warren Morgan



<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 84(b)</b>
24 March 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

**PETITION REPORT**

**CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT**

**KEEP BRIGHTON UNIQUE**

Add further recommendation as shown in bold italics;

**Recommendation**

2.1 That the petition is referred to the Cabinet Meeting for consideration, ***with the following additional recommendation;***

- (i) ***That Cabinet are requested to ensure that full account is taken of the work of the new retail Commission established as a result of the Streets Ahead conference on 11<sup>th</sup> March.***

Proposed by: Cllr Mary Mears

Seconded by: Cllr Brian Oxley





<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 84(b)</b>
24 March 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

**PETITION REPORT**

**GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT**

**KEEP BRIGHTON UNIQUE**

Add further recommendations as shown in bold italics:

2.1 That the petition is referred to the Cabinet for consideration ***with the following additional recommendations;***

- (i) ***The Chief Executive writes to Sainsbury's saying that the majority of residents do not want or need another Sainsbury's supermarket in Brighton or another supermarket on St. James's Street***
- (ii) ***The Chief Executive writes a letter to the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government requesting that the Local Authority is given planning powers to:***
  - a) ***Allow communities to work with their local authorities to create 'Business conservation areas' to ensure designated areas retain the character and amenity of their shopping streets, and bar formula retailers from certain areas,***
  - b) ***Insist that a proportion of retail floor space in all new developments is affordable space for local small businesses,***
  - c) ***Adopt a retail strategy, a retail regeneration plan and local competition policies to prevent formula businesses dominating shopping streets and to ensure fair market access for small, independent retailers. These strategies should include policies to support and retain street markets and farmers' markets, and encourage the introduction of new markets, where there is community demand,***
  - d) ***Empower local authorities to bring in rent controls for small shop premises, to prevent landlords from driving up rents and driving out independent retailers.***
- (iii) ***The Chief Executive writes a letter to the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Skills asking that the government establish a Local Competition Ombudsman as recommended by the Competition Commission which will rein in the power of the big four grocery chains.***

Proposed by: Councillor Rachel Fryer

Seconded by: Councillor Ben Duncan



<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 84(c)</b>
24 March 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

**PETITION REPORT**

**LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT**

**SAVE THE DRIVE CYCLE LANES, HOVE**

Add additional recommendation 2.2, as shown in bold italics:

**Recommendations**

- 2.1** That the petition is referred to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration; ***and***
- 2.2** ***Requests that the Cabinet Member seeks to ensure that the council actively promotes cycling as a sustainable form of travel and continues to invest in safe cycling facilities across the city.***

Proposed by: Cllr Melanie Davis

Seconded by: Cllr Gill Mitchell



<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 84(c)</b>
24 March 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

**PETITION REPORT**

**GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT**

**SAVE THE DRIVE CYCLE LANES, HOVE**

Add additional recommendations 2.2 and 2.3, as shown in bold italics:

**Recommendations**

2.1 That the petition is referred to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration;

**2.2 *That the Cabinet Member is requested to:***

- ***thank the public for their strong expression of interest and tremendous level of support for retaining and improving the cycle lanes;***
- ***acknowledge that there is clear public support for the retention of these lanes;***
- ***place all safety audits that have been undertaken on The Drive into the public domain;***

**2.3 *That the Cabinet Member is requested to:***

- ***instruct officers to identify immediate measures that can be taken to address safety concerns; and***
- ***instruct officers to identify measures both in the immediate and longer term which may increase usage such as completing links to the north of the city and developing routes to the east and west.***

Proposed by: Cllr Ian Davey

Seconded by: Cllr Alex Phillips



<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 85</b>
24 March 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

## **WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

The following questions have been received from Councillors and will be taken as read along with the written answers which will be included in an addendum that will be circulated at the meeting:

### **(a) Councillor Davis**

"What 'slow down' and Schools signs are planned to be installed along the Old Shoreham Rd near the junction at the Upper Drive?"

#### **Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.**

"I am pleased to report that two new electronic 'school warning' signs have been installed on the Old Shoreham Road, either side of the Upper Drive.

These complement the new puffin crossing currently being installed on the Upper Drive near this junction.

In addition to this, all the road markings along the Old Shoreham Road from BHASVIC to Portslade have been refreshed where necessary and a general de-clutter of signs has been carried out – removing redundant ones and combining others, some existing signs were either replaced or cleaned as appropriate."

### **(b) Councillor Elgood**

"Can the Cabinet Member for Environment kindly update me on the progress towards a gating order for Farman Street? As he will be aware this small cut through off Western Road has seen a particularly high level of anti-social behaviour and crime as a result of the high number of licensed venues on Western Rd."

#### **Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.**

"Statutory consultation on a proposed Gating Order at Farman Street took place between September and October 2010 and resulted in a number of representations both for and against being received and considered.

In the consultation it suggested a gate at the junction of Farman St and Western Road to be locked between the hours of 9pm and 8am to restrict access from Western Road to Farman St only. The lock will not restrict access from Farman St into Western Road at any time this is so that the area will remain accessible from Cross Street. (The legislation does not permit the full gating of an area of residential properties)."

**(c) Councillor Elgood**

“A recent licensing hearing concerning a premise on Western Road revealed that its existing licensing permissions did not match those relating to the current planning permissions for the venue. What checks are made between licensing and planning (and vice versa) to ensure that both permissions match? How does the council ensure that there are no differences between the two sets of permissions and has the council identified this as an issue in previously agreed applications, where premises now operate with one or other permissions incorrectly?”

**Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.**

“Planning and licensing are separate statutory regimes with different considerations. It is quite legitimate for planning permission and a premises licence to impose different conditions. It is the responsibility of the premises licence holder to comply with all permissions.

The law precludes using lack of correct planning permission being used to justify refusal unless a licensing objective is not supported. Licensing objectives are crime prevention, public safety, public nuisance or protecting children. Planning considerations are different to Licensing Objectives. The lack of appropriate planning position cannot be used to justify licence application refusal or impose conditions in itself. To do so, would leave the Council acting outside its powers.

Officers have reported to Cabinet last March on this subject. Officers continue to work towards ensuring planning policy and enforcement is more effectively used to supplement the existing licensing powers to control the availability of alcohol through licensed premises in the city.

Where appropriate when considering planning applications within the policy framework planning conditions can be attached to permissions to safeguard amenity and mitigate against impact”

**(d) Councillor Lepper**

“Can the Cabinet Member for enterprise give assurances to the local businesses and Community Transport, who currently rent space from the Council on the Preston Barracks site, that if future developments on that site should mean their relocation, every help will be given to them by the Council to do so locally, thus safeguarding the business and the jobs of those who work for them.”

**Reply from Councillor Fallon-Khan, Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Employment & Major Projects.**

“The council is of course committed to supporting businesses wherever possible. Indeed, it was the council’s desire to assist a number of local businesses back in 2004 (at a time when they had to vacate their previous site –



Hollingdean Depot), that led to agreement to their temporary relocation to Preston Barracks. They have been fully aware from the outset that their occupation was an interim arrangement pending redevelopment. They have operated from the site for considerably longer than originally anticipated and I am very pleased that the council has been able to assist in this way.

The city council will again assist where it can. Equally, I am sure the businesses will be proactively searching for alternative accommodation and will be making best use of the time still available to them. I would therefore hope that a longer-term solution can be found. I am aware that Councillor Lepper has raised her concerns at previous Board meetings and I know that officers will update the businesses as the project moves forward.

As a member of the Preston Barracks Project Board, Councillor Lepper will know of the progress that has been made, in recent months in particular, in moving forward with plans in partnership with the University of Brighton. Having been supported by the Board, I am delighted that the draft planning brief was approved at the 10 March Environment CMM. This is a significant step forward and consultation on the draft brief will be starting shortly. This site offers a fantastic opportunity to deliver a high quality development, one that will create much needed jobs and contribute to the regeneration of this area of the city."

**(e) Councillor Morgan**

"Can the Cabinet Member advise of the progress made on the sale of the land currently occupied by Whitehawk Library and Youth Centre, whether bids have been sought or received, what timetable there is for the sale and what the market value of the land is?"

**Reply from Councillor Alford, Cabinet Member for Central Services.**

"The recommendation to sell this site was presented to Cabinet on 14 January 2010 (item 161, Forward Plan No: CAB13950). More recently the Planning Projects Team has provided informal planning guidance notes for this site as well as land on Whitehawk Road (Wellsbourne Centre). The Property Estates Team are currently having informal discussions with agents with a view to identifying a shortlist to tender for the instruction for the marketing and sale of both sites. The intention is to commence marketing in May with a closing date for offers projected for July. Negotiations will then commence with the successful bidder or bidders to complete a sale which would likely complete in 2012. Initial valuations based on assumptions for residential development have estimated a value for both sites in the region of £1m - £1.5m which will be tested when put to the market.

The Whitehawk co-location project has been partly funded by the Education capital programme and so £1m from the receipt for these two sites will be repaid to the Education capital programme once the sales complete."

**(f) Councillor Morgan**

“How much has the council spent printing and posting the incorrect rate bills for charities?”

**Reply from Councillor Young, Cabinet Member for Finance.**

“We wrote to 100 organisations (charities and not for profit organisations) to forewarn them that their bills may be incorrect, due to unforeseen delays in processing applications for rate relief. The cost involved in sending these letters was relatively small at £105.89, and helped to ensure our customers were aware of what was happening. We have advised those involved to disregard their bill until they get an amended one in April.”

**(g) Councillor Elgood**

“Hotels and Guest Houses benefit from voucher parking in Kemp Town. Could the council consider extending the scheme to other parking zones, including in Brunswick and Adelaide, where small hotels and guest house owners have requested a similar scheme?”

**Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.**

“The council will consider the issue of extending the hotel voucher permit scheme to other parking zones as part of the citywide parking review this summer.”

**(h) Councillor Hawkes**

“Has the Cabinet member looked into the possible impact this government’s abolition of Educational Maintenance Allowance will have on young people in Brighton & Hove and what does she plan to do about it?”

**Reply from Councillor Brown, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People.**

“The cost of providing EMA is approximately £600 million. The grant is allocated according to household income which does not necessarily reflect the actual needs of the student.

There is another source of funding to support students in real need ...the discretionary Learner Support Funds which is given directly to sixth form colleges and Colleges of further Education. (The Local Authority is given Learner Support funding for those in school sixth forms.) The government is intending to increase this discretionary fund.

Decisions regarding the new discretionary fund will be made locally, enabling schools, colleges and training providers to target support at those young people in greatest need.

In finalising the arrangements for the enhanced discretionary learner support, the Department will consult with schools, colleges and training organisations and other interested parties, including on how to ensure that the most vulnerable young people, who are facing genuine financial barriers to participation, receive appropriate support to enable them to continue in education or training.

The plan is to allocate the enhanced funding in line with the timetable for overall funding allocations for schools and colleges, which will be made by the end of March 2011.”

**(i) Councillor Hawkes**

“Despite this government’s claim that they had found “more resources” for our school’s, new figures have revealed that the average secondary school will see its budget for building work, repairs and computers slashed by £86,000 next year and for primary schools in England the figure is £26,000. Does this concern the cabinet member and how does she plan to work with local schools to manage this further loss of funding?”

**Reply from Councillor Brown, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People.**

“The government has been able to safeguard resources for schools and through the pupil premium increases funding. As part of the spending review for 2011/12, the overall settlement for schools, within the Dedicated Schools Grant, has been maintained at flat cash per pupil, which means that funding will rise in line with pupil numbers.

The pupil premium is in addition to this and is estimated at £625m nationally for 2011/12. For schools in Brighton & Hove, the pupil premium funding will be in the region of £2m and it is planned for this pupil premium money to increase over the next 4 years.

Brighton & Hove has benefited from a significant capital building project in Moulsecoomb, a brand new secondary school and has secured funding for new buildings and refurbishment at Portslade Community College. We also have funding for the building necessary to increase the number of primary classrooms.

The amount available to individual schools through devolved formula capital (DFC) has been reduced and officers are working with schools to look at the best ways to use this efficiently. Some schools will contribute their DFC to existing projects and others may consider pooling their allocation to benefit groups of schools.”

**(j) Councillor McCaffery**

“As one of the very few councillors living near London Road, I am only too aware of the volume of traffic coming into the City and the heavy congestion this causes and would wish to encourage the use of other forms of transport, Could Cllr Theobald inform me of the cost of a normal return journey to the city Centre for two adults and two children?”

**Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.**

“Whilst it is a busy road it is also vitally important in providing access to the City for our many visitors and our residents.

Assuming that none of the members of the family hold any concessions, the Brighton and Hove Bus Company fare for each adult would be £3.70, and for the children it would be £1 each way, giving a total cost of £11.40. However the adult ticket for £3.70 is an all-day City Saver giving unlimited travel between Steyning, Shoreham, Lewes and Seaford. If the adults held Annual Saver tickets, and the children held Bus ID cards, then the total cost for the family for the day would be £3.16.”

**(k) Councillor Simpson**

“Could the Cabinet member give a best estimate as to how many Housing Benefit claimants will be affected by the cuts to the benefit that are being introduced over the next few years. Please can you inform me as to the numbers of Private Sector tenants and also a figure as to the number of working age Brighton and Hove City Council tenants who will be affected by such measures as the restriction of the payment of Housing Benefit to the number of bedrooms to match household size?”

**Reply from Councillor Young, Cabinet Member for Finance.**

“There are 28,114 people claiming Housing Benefit (HB) in Brighton and Hove. 9,630 of these are for Council owned, or Council leased accommodation. 18,484 are for private rented accommodation of which 4,891 are for Housing Association properties. The remaining people rent from independent private landlords and agencies.

Of the customers who rent from independent private landlords, 12,665 are paid under the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) scheme. A further 913 are paid on older HB schemes because of the length of their tenancy, it is a protected tenancy or because they live in unusual accommodation, for example houseboats.

There are currently 5,485 working households claiming HB and LHA. 4,183 rent from independent private landlords and agencies, 476 from Housing Associations and 821 from the Council.

7248 LHA claims currently have their benefit based upon an amount more than their rent. These 'excess' payments will be ended over the next 12 months starting in April 2011.

All LHA will be eventually based on the 30th percentile of local rents rather than the 50th percentile. This will be implemented for existing customers over the next 21 months starting from April 2011.

Non-dependent deductions are changing over the next three years to take into account inflation since 2001 when they were frozen. This will affect approximately 185 customers in Housing Association properties 265 who rent from independent landlords and agencies and 530 in Council Accommodation. A further 1000 claims with non-dependants are exempt from deductions.

The Government is yet to issue detail on the proposal that payment of HB should match household size and bedrooms in the Social Sector."

**(I) Councillor Meadows**

"Is Cllr Norman concerned about the cutbacks his government is making on the inspection of Care Homes and will he be making representations to the Secretary Of State for Health regarding the impact on local care homes?"

**Reply from Councillor Norman, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health.**

"This question is linked to the new standards for regulated social care services that came into force on 1/10/10, including essential standards of quality and safety that all care providers must meet. The Care Quality Commission introduced a new registration and monitoring system alongside this. This includes a shift from periodic inspections and quality ratings to a system of continuous monitoring of compliance with these essential standards. The Commission have introduced a Quality Risk Profile on all providers which enables them to gather and analyse available information. This informs the actions they will take in relation to providers including inspection activity.

Findings from CQC monitoring are publicly available and the Commission have a range of enforcement powers if providers fail to meet standards. The Commission have also announced the development of a new scheme to promote excellence in regulated social care services with a proposed implementation date of April 2012.

These national developments have been complemented by the introduction of more robust Care Governance arrangements in Brighton & Hove through the Care Governance Panel which monitors the quality of care across local services. Officers from the Council meet regularly with the local CQC team to discuss the quality of local services. At my Cabinet Member Meetings I receive regular reports summarising the quality of care home provision in the city.

The quality and safety of care in local care homes is of utmost importance to me. I am satisfied that the monitoring of local care services by the CQC, alongside the local arrangements in the city are robust, and therefore I will not be making representations to the Secretary of State.”

**ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

A period of not more than 30 minutes is set aside for oral questions from Members, at the expiry of which, the Mayor will call a halt and proceed to the next item of business of the agenda. Any Member whose question then remains outstanding will be contacted to determine whether they wish to have a written answer provided or for their question to be carried over to the next meeting.

The following Members have indicated that they wish to put questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairmen of Committees or Members of the Council that have been appointed to an outside body. The Councillor asking the question may then ask one relevant supplementary question which shall be put and answered without discussion:

**(a) Councillor Smith**

*Subject matter – City Libraries.*

**Reply from Councillor Kennedy, Chairman of the Culture, Tourism & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee.**

**(b) Councillor Hamilton**

*Subject matter – Portslade Town Hall and Council Offices.*

**Reply from Councillor Alford, Cabinet Member for Central Services.**

**(c) Councillor Fallon-Khan**

*Subject matter – Value for Money.*

**Reply from Councillor Mears, Leader of the Council.**

**(d) Councillor Davis**

*Subject matter – St Anne's Wells Gardens.*

**Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.**

**(e) Councillor Barnett**

*Subject matter – Apprenticeships.*

**Reply from Councillor Fallon-Khan, Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Employment & Major Projects.**

**(f) Councillor Morgan**

*Subject matter – The Brighton Centre.*

**Reply from Councillor Smith, Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation & Tourism.**

- (g) Councillor Alford**  
*Subject matter – Council Housing.*

**Reply from Councillor Caulfield, Cabinet Member for Housing.**

- (h) Councillor Turton**  
*Subject matter – Park & Ride.*

**Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.**

- (i) Councillor Carden**  
*Subject matter – Footpaths.*

**Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.**

- (j) Councillor Lepper**  
*Subject matter – Traffic & Road Safety in Hollingdean.*

**Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.**

- (k) Councillor Marsh**  
*Subject matter – Council Housing.*

**Reply from Councillor Caulfield, Cabinet Member for Housing.**

- (l) Councillor Mitchell**  
*Subject matter – Local Economic Partnership.*

**Reply from Councillor Mears, Leader of the Council.**

- (m) Councillor Hawkes**  
*Subject matter – Unauthorised Encampments of Van Dwellers in Hollingdean & Stanmer.*

**Reply from Councillor Caulfield, Cabinet Member for Housing.**

- (n) Councillor McCaffery**  
*Subject matter – Education Welfare Service.*

**Reply from Councillor Brown, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People.**



<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 94(a)</b>
24 March 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### JOINT LABOUR AND GREEN GROUPS AMENDMENT

#### INVESTING IN THE CITY'S HOUSING

To delete paragraph 2 as struck out below, and to insert new paragraphs 2 and 3 with additional wording in point (iii) and new point (iv) as shown below in bold italics:

#### INVESTING IN THE CITY'S HOUSING

"This Council welcomes the close involvement of Brighton & Hove's tenants and leaseholders in deciding how housing services are planned and delivered in the City and in setting the Council's housing budget strategy for 2011-12. Their identified priorities include:

- Continued investment in the Turning the Tide strategy to tackle anti-social behaviour and reduce social exclusion;
- Identifying measures to tackle overcrowding through an enhanced housing options approach;
- Leasing properties to Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes, the housing company set up by the council to raise investment for improvements to council tenants' homes;
- Working in partnership to develop an estates "masterplan" to inform best use of our assets and identify opportunities to build new Council homes;
- Maximising the level of revenue resources available to support the Decent Homes Programme and working with residents to ensure that we are able to respond to opportunities to generate renewable energy.

~~Therefore, this Council notes with regret that this strategy and programme of council housing investment—as laid out in the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2011/12—did not receive unanimous support from the Full Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.~~

***However, this council is disappointed by the government's record on housing so far, which includes:***

- ***Controversially reducing housing benefit which risks driving thousands of vulnerable people from their homes in areas where housing costs are high.***
- ***Not adjusting the formula to limit the rise in social housing rents, at a time of high inflation, to help Brighton & Hove tenants during the financial downturn;***
- ***Housing associations being allowed to charge rents of up to 80% of market rate to fund new provision, which is likely to price vulnerable tenants out of their homes in these tough economic times.***

- ***Ending the universal right to secure tenancies for existing as well as new tenants, despite promising in the 2010 Conservative Party Manifesto to “respect the tenures and rents of social housing tenants.”***
- ***Extending the amount of time a home is allowed to stand empty, before a council can intervene, from 6 months to 2 years, meaning more empty homes for longer periods in Brighton & Hove.***
- ***Reducing the affordable housing budget by 60% which will lead to a decline in affordable house-building nationally and locally.***
- ***Taking-back 75% of right-to-buy income, rather than allow 100% of income from sales to be given to local authorities, such as Brighton & Hove.***
- ***Abandoning previous planning targets, which could lead to fewer new homes locally and nationally.***
- ***Failing to end the sale of council homes, leading to a reduction in the availability of affordable housing in Brighton & Hove.***
- ***Doing nothing to regulate rents in the private rented sector or regulate the work of letting agents, thus failing to ease the many problems faced by private sector tenants who account for almost a quarter of the tenancies in Brighton and Hove – more than twice the national average – and whose average tenancy length is between only 12 and 18 months.***

***The Council believes that the above measures, taken together, will have significant adverse impact on the availability of, and investment in, housing in the City.***

Therefore, this Council resolves:

- (i) to place on record its sincere gratitude to the city’s tenants and leaseholders for all their excellent partnership working with the Council in helping to deliver improvements to their housing;
- (ii) to continue to involve them closely in budget and policy setting, which affect their lives and homes;
- (iii) to request that the Chief Executive writes to the Housing Minister – Grant Shapps MP – ***with a copy of this motion*** highlighting ***this council’s concerns with his government’s housing policies, but also*** the excellent partnership working taking place in Brighton & Hove.
- (iv) ***notes that the Cabinet member for Housing has publicly stated that the potential sites for the building of new council homes in the city are “clearly mapped out” and requests that these maps and details are distributed to all members of the council forthwith.***

Proposed by: Cllr Christine Simpson

Seconded by: Cllr Bill Randall

Supported by: Cllrs Allen, Carden, Davies, Davey, Deane, Duncan, Fryer, Hamilton, Hawkes, Kennedy Kitcat, Lepper, Marsh, McCaffery, Meadows, Mitchell, Morgan, Phillips, Rufus, Steedman, Turton, Wakefield-Jarrett, West and Wrighton.

<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 94(b)</b>
24 March 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### JOINT GREEN AND LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT

#### ENHANCING BRIGHTON & HOVE'S TREES AND WOODLAND

Insert additional paragraphs 4 and 5; additional wording in new paragraph 6 as shown below in bold italics, and re-order subsequent numbering:

"This Council recognises the hugely important role that is played by Brighton & Hove's 9,000 street trees, and 500 hectares of woodland. In particular:

- Woodlands and parks provide invaluable space for recreation and exercise for residents.
- Trees and woodland play a crucial role in global climate regulation and, therefore, help to enable people and wildlife to adapt to climate change.
- Trees and woods also help in the reduction of urban temperatures, alleviate flooding, absorb pollution, and provide sustainable building materials.

Furthermore, Brighton & Hove plays a national role in tree conservation and biodiversity, hosting the official National Elm Collection and the former National Lilac Collection at Withdean Park. The Council also runs a successful Tree Trust, which enables residents to have a dedicated tree planted on their behalf to mark a significant event or simply to enhance the character of their chosen area.

This Council notes the woodland access standard developed by the Woodland Trust, which has a goal that no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size, and that there should be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km of people's homes. Currently access to woodland within 500m is 3.6% for Brighton and Hove, which compares to an average of 13.2% for East Sussex and 15.6% for the UK.

***This Council is also pleased to note that the coalition government has been forced to abandon its plans to sell off England's treasured 1,400 national forests, including nearby forests visited and enjoyed by the people of this city, thanks to the Save Our Forests Campaign, organised by 38 Degrees and backed by organisations including the Woodland Trust, Greenpeace, the WWF, the National Trust, and the Ramblers, heralding a victory for people power with over 530,000 people signing a petition opposing the Government's plan to privatise public forests.***

***This Council is, however, disappointed that this government still plans to sell 15 per cent of the Public Forest Estate, the maximum sales allowed under the***

***law as it stands, where they have simply delayed the sale until the autumn. This will concern local people who enjoy visiting adjacent natural forests and woodland, such as the nearby Friston Forest,***

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- 1. Congratulate all Brighton & Hove residents involved in the Save Our Forests Campaign for their success in achieving a u-turn from the coalition government on these unpopular proposals to sell off our national forests;***
2. Request that the Cabinet Member for Environment:
  - a) Works with the Woodland Trust to examine options for further woodland creation and tree planting in Brighton and Hove, with particular reference to the Mayor of London's Street Trees campaign which aims to plant 10,000 new street trees in the capital;
  - b) Investigates the possibility of a developing a stand alone trees and woodlands policy, in consultation with the relevant scrutiny committee.
  - c) Explores the option of a free tree scheme, such as the one in Kent, which enables residents to apply for up to 25 free trees, of which nearly 7 tonnes of CO2 would be absorbed in their lifetime, and can be planted as single trees or used to create a woodland or hedgerow."***

Proposed by: Cllr Amy Kennedy      Seconded by: Cllr Juliet McCaffery

Supported by: Cllrs Allen, Carden, Davies, Davey, Deane, Duncan, Fryer, Hamilton, Hawkes, Kitcat, Lepper, Marsh, Meadows, Mitchell, Morgan, Phillips, Randall, Rufus, Simpson, Steedman, Turton, Wakefield-Jarrett, West and Wrighton

<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 94(c)</b>
24 March 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

#### A FINANCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMME FOR THE CITY

Insert new point 1 as shown in bold italics, renumber the remaining points and insert the wording '*continue to*' in new point 4 as shown in bold italics.

"This Council acknowledges the need to build a sustainable economy in Brighton & Hove and recognises that an essential part of this should be a comprehensive information and advice strategy to ensure that people are supported in coping with increasingly complex financial pressures.

Regrets that today, in Brighton & Hove:

- 10,700 people in Brighton & Hove are without jobs and want to work.
- 17% of households have incomes below £10,000 per year
- 20% of children live in households with no working adults.
- Average earnings in the city are also below national levels, while property prices are above average.

There is a lack of awareness about affordable credit and problem debt is increasing. Exclusion from financial services creates barriers and can lead to additional costs, particularly for those on the lowest incomes.

This Council acknowledges that social and financial exclusion is economically inefficient, representing a waste of people's potential and generating unnecessary welfare costs.

Around 70% of financially excluded people live in social housing and this Council believes that any financial inclusion programme must include social housing tenants. This Council recognises that effectively helping people achieve financial inclusion involves tackling the various factors that result in exclusion. For example, a person may be in debt through not claiming their full benefit entitlement, be paying punitive rates of interest to a doorstep lender, lack insurance cover to meet unexpected costs and be unable to budget effectively.

Therefore this Council:

1. ***Welcomes the work already undertaken to improve financial inclusion in the City; for example, through grant funding to agencies including Brighton Housing Trust, Credit Union (East Sussex) and St Luke's Advice & Money Advice Community Support and through the City's Advice and Information Services Partnership.***

2. Welcomes the decision of Full Council to provide funding to develop a Citywide Financial Inclusion Strategy, including support for existing money and debt advice services and credit unions;
3. Requests the Cabinet Member for Finance to immediately begin exploring options for commissioning a strategy which would aim to:-
  - target disadvantaged areas to assist local residents in managing their money,
  - increase the number of residents having a basic bank account,
  - provide access to affordable credit – such as joining a credit union,
  - offer debt advice and tackle illegal loan sharks including support for existing money and debt services and credit unions;

And

4. Requests the Cabinet Member for Finance to **continue to** ensure that all potential partners are fully liaised with and consulted, including existing money advice organisations, Citizens Advice Bureau, the local credit union and the Advice and Information Services Partnership of the LSP.”

Proposed by: Cllr Dee Simson

Seconded by: Cllr Ayas Fallon-Khan

<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 94(c)</b>
24 March 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT

#### A FINANCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMME FOR THE CITY

Insert additional points 2 and 5 in paragraph 6 as shown below in bold italics, and re-order subsequent numbering:

“This Council acknowledges the need to build a sustainable economy in Brighton & Hove and recognises that an essential part of this should be a comprehensive information and advice strategy to ensure that people are supported in coping with increasingly complex financial pressures.

Regrets that today, in Brighton & Hove:

- 10,700 people in Brighton & Hove are without jobs and want to work.
- 17% of households have incomes below £10,000 per year
- 20% of children live in households with no working adults.
- Average earnings in the city are also below national levels, while property prices are above average.

There is a lack of awareness about affordable credit and problem debt is increasing. Exclusion from financial services creates barriers and can lead to additional costs, particularly for those on the lowest incomes.

This Council acknowledges that social and financial exclusion is economically inefficient, representing a waste of people’s potential and generating unnecessary welfare costs.

Around 70% of financially excluded people live in social housing and this Council believes that any financial inclusion programme must include social housing tenants. This Council recognises that effectively helping people achieve financial inclusion involves tackling the various factors that result in exclusion. For example, a person may be in debt through not claiming their full benefit entitlement, be paying punitive rates of interest to a doorstep lender, lack insurance cover to meet unexpected costs and be unable to budget effectively.

Therefore this Council:

1. Welcomes the decision of Full Council to provide funding to develop a Citywide Financial Inclusion Strategy, including support for existing money and debt advice services and credit unions;
2. ***Requests the Leader and Cabinet to consider launching a campaign to increase East Sussex Credit Union membership among Brighton and***

***Hove council staff and members led by the Council Leader, the Chief Executive and senior council staff;***

3. Requests the Cabinet Member for Finance to immediately begin exploring options for commissioning a strategy which would aim to:-
  - target disadvantaged areas to assist local residents in managing their money,
  - increase the number of residents having a basic bank account,
  - provide access to affordable credit – such as joining a credit union,
  - offer debt advice and tackle illegal loan sharks including support for existing money and debt services and credit unions;

***And***

4. Requests the Cabinet Member for Finance to ensure that all potential partners are fully liaised with and consulted, including existing money advice organisations, Citizens Advice Bureau, the local credit union and the Advice and Information Services Partnership of the LSP;

***And***

5. ***Requests the Chief Executive to write to the city's three MPs urging them to lobby the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the introduction of a cap on interest rates, bringing the UK in line with Germany, France, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Ireland, Poland and most European countries."***

Proposed by: Cllr Bill Randall      Seconded by: Cllr Jason Kitcat

Supported by: Cllrs Davey, Deane, Duncan, Fryer, Kennedy, Phillips, Rufus, Steedman, Wakefield-Jarrett, West and Wrighton



<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 94(d)</b>
24 March 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT

#### THE IMPACT OF POLICE CUTS IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE

Delete wording as struck through; insert additional wording as shown below in bold italics:

#### THE IMPACT OF POLICE CUTS IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

“This council wishes to acknowledge its good working relationship with Sussex Police at both a central command and neighbourhood policing level.

However, it expresses concern at the government’s policy of making deep and frontloaded cuts to our local police services: ***the fourth successive year in which Government funding for Sussex Police has been reduced.***

The Sussex Police Authority has been placed in an impossible position in having to reduce the number of police officers and staff, both of whom play a vital role in protecting local residents from crime and work hard to make Brighton & Hove a safer city.

This council has huge reservations over the impact these cuts will have locally, with Sussex Police facing cuts of £28.6m in real terms over the next two years, as well as last year announcing cuts to 1,050 Police officer posts over the next five years.

Over the four years of the Government’s Spending Review, police forces will see their funding cut by around 20 per cent in real terms. Sussex Police will lose 550 police staff as a result of this.

Meanwhile, the Government is spending over £100m on replacing police authorities with 42 directly elected police commissioners, an unwanted and currently unnecessary organisational upheaval, which goes against a 150-year tradition of keeping politics out of day to day policing.

***The cost of this reorganisation has been estimated at over £1m in Sussex alone.***

People will be justifiably angry that, at the same time as cutting funding for frontline police, the government wants to spend the equivalent of 600 full time police officers on bringing in directly elected police commissioners.

This council therefore ~~expresses concern~~ **notes** at the following;

- That the future of Hove Police Station is under threat with no confirmed alternative proposals for a publicly accessible front desk service.
- That the station's viability was placed in doubt following the departure of the Road Policing Unit, due to ***these successive*** budget cuts ***by Labour and Coalition Governments***.
- That there will be no police station in Sussex open after midnight and that it is proposed that the John Street Police Station in Brighton closes its doors between midnight and 8am.

This council also;

- Believes strongly, that the residents of Brighton, Hove and Portslade need a ***fully accessible facility, for contacting and speaking to the police, based in their community or neighbourhood*** ~~local Police Station, with full policing capabilities and an accessible, public front desk;~~
- Notes that when the previous government left office, there were record numbers of Police on the street, nearly 17,000 more than in 1997, in addition to 16,000 new PCSOs. ~~Accordingly, crime fell by 43% and the chance of being a victim of crime was at a thirty year low;~~
- Notes that the number of young people first time entrants to the criminal justice system and ending up in custody had fallen by 25% by 2010.

This council therefore;

Requests that the council's Chief Executive writes to the Home Secretary, The Rt. Hon Theresa May MP to express this council's concerns as set out in this motion with a copy also sent to the Shadow Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper MP and the city's three local MPs."

Proposed by: Cllr Ben Duncan

Seconded by: Cllr Jason Kitcat

Supported by: Cllrs Davey, Deane, Fryer, Kennedy, Phillips, Randall, Rufus, Steedman, Wakefield-Jarrett, West and Wrigton

<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 94(f)</b>
24 March 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

#### REDUCING THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL ABUSE ON THE CITY

“This council expresses its concern about **excess** alcohol consumption in Brighton and Hove, its cost to the local economy and its damaging effect on the well-being of the local community, **but recognises that the majority of people consume alcohol responsibly and that the majority of retailers take their responsibilities toward selling alcohol very seriously.**

It notes that:

- The number of licensed premises in the city increased from 1099 in 2006 to 1427 in 2010, an increase of nearly 50 per cent, following the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003; <sup>(1)</sup> **by the previous Government**
- 45 per cent of all crime in the city is fuelled by alcohol <sup>(2)</sup> including crimes of violence, among them domestic violence;
- The city has almost double the regional rate of alcohol related crime;
- The annual financial cost to the city is estimated at more than £106 million;
- 57 per cent of adults in the city are estimated to be hazardous or harmful drinkers;
- Many of those at highest risk live in deprived areas;
- 13 per cent of all 10-15 year-olds reported being drunk at least once.

Locally, this council welcomes the work in hand by the council to address the problems associated with alcohol consumption in the city. ~~However, it deplores the ineffectual ‘Responsibility Deal’ introduced by the Government, which depends on self-regulation through voluntary agreements on issues such as promotions and labeling,~~ **in particular the innovative new approaches being developed as part of the Intelligent Commissioning Pilot on Alcohol Related Harm.**

It therefore:

- (1) ~~Notes Joins that~~ the British Medical Association, The Royal College of Surgeons, The British Liver Trust, Alcohol Concern, the Institute of Alcohol Studies and the Royal College of Physicians **have condemned** ~~in condemning the~~ ‘Responsibility Deal’;
- (2) Calls on the Chief Executive to write to the Government on behalf of the city council urging it to:
  - ~~Produce a coherent and comprehensive strategy to deal with alcohol calling on the expertise of health professionals and others~~ **enact all alcohol licensing measures contained in the Police Reform and Social**

**Responsibility Bill and its sister document - 'Rebalancing the Licensing Act' – as a matter of urgency.**

- **Continue** to engage with the drinks industry, ~~after the strategy is produced, to establish what contribution it can make to implementing the strategy~~ **around promoting responsible drinking.**
- **Note the innovative work that the Council is pursuing through Intelligent Commissioning, with its outcome based and multi-agency approach to tackling alcohol-related harm.**

Proposed by: Cllr. Denise Cobb

Seconded by: Cllr. Lynda Hyde