

# **COUNCIL ADDENDUM 2 Public Engagement**

**4.30PM, THURSDAY, 10 JULY 2025**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**



## **ADDENDUM**

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# Brighton & Hove City Council

## Council

## Agenda Item 19

**Subject:** Petitions

**Date of meeting:** 10 July 2025

**Report of:** Director of Governance & Law

**Contact Officer:** Name: Anthony Soyinka  
Tel: 01273 291006  
Email: [anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

### 1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 To receive any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council notes the petition(s).

### 3. Context and background information

- 3.1 To receive the following petition:

#### City name change

We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to adopt 'Brighton' as the official name of our city, with Hove honored as a unique and celebrated area within it. This change would reflect our unified identity under one city name, strengthening our appeal and sense of community while respecting each area's distinct character and heritage

This petition proposes changing our city's official name from "Brighton & Hove" to simply "Brighton," while ensuring that Hove remains a distinct and vibrant district within the larger city.

This isn't about erasing Hove's unique identity—it's about recognizing that Hove will still be known as Hove, but as an integral part of Brighton. The rich character and history of Hove will continue to be celebrated, preserving its name and sense of place within a connected city. By adopting "Brighton" as our official city name, we aim to bring a stronger, more unified identity to our community, while respecting what makes each area special.

This change reflects the way our community already feels—one connected city. Adopting this single name could boost the city's appeal on a global scale, benefiting tourism and attracting investment. Locally, it could foster a deeper sense of unity, giving the city a bigger, more cohesive feel as it thrives under one name.

The council has indicated that with enough community support, they would consider this change. If you believe this vision of a more connected, thriving city could benefit our community, please show your support. Together, we can work toward a shared future that respects our history and embraces new opportunities.

3.2 To receive the following petition:

**Reopen toilets Victoria Recreation Ground, Portslade**

We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to reopen the public toilets at Victoria Recreation Ground, Portslade.

These facilities have been closed for several years, yet a council inspection has confirmed they are still useable. Each week, hundreds of people visit the recreation ground, including many participating in organised football matches. Players—men, women, and children—often travel significant distances to take part, accompanied by supporters. However, the nearest public toilets are an 11-minute walk away, creating unnecessary inconvenience. The absence of accessible toilets discourages participation in healthy outdoor activities and there is a public health risk with the amount of human excrement accumulating behind trees and bushes. Restoring this essential facility would greatly benefit the local community and visitors alike

3.3 To receive the following petition:

**Improve the A23 through Preston Village for the local community, environment & economy**

Our campaign aims to improve the A23 through Preston Village so the village can become a thriving, walkable, people centred community. We call on Brighton & Hove City Council to make changes that could improve the A23 through Preston Village such as;

1. Better crossings & more space for people walking & wheeling
2. Rain Gardens & Street trees to mitigate flooding
3. Parking & loading bays for easier access to shops
4. Bus stops in the village, closer to the shops and pubs
5. Protected space for people cycling

Preston Village was once an independent Sussex village but is now part of the City of Brighton & Hove. The village is on the A23, adjacent to Preston Park between Brighton & Patcham, the primary north / south transport corridor into the city.

In the 1950's the road through Preston Village was widened to allow space for local traffic and through traffic to Brighton.

Subsequent changes to road layout, traffic volume and traffic speed have over-run the village. At points the carriageway in front of Preston Village is now double the width of other locations to the North & South.

Traffic engineers and urban planners have determined that the 6 lane carriageway provides very limited capacity increase or improvements to traffic flow or journey times.

Moreover, in its present state the A23 generates a ranges of problems which disproportionately impact the local community. These problems include;

- An unattractive environment for pedestrians and wheelchair users, due to motor vehicle volume, speed and proximity
- Large impermeable surface areas which exacerbate flooding
- Air pollution from brake particulate, engine exhaust particulate and tyre particulate matter
- Serious noise pollution
- A poor record of road traffic accidents, exacerbated by a road layout which perpetuates driver conflict
- Very restricted pedestrian space
- Very restricted space for business in front of shops
- Poor bus stop locations which prevent access to local shops
- Poor road crossings which prioritise motor vehicles
- Unsafe cycle lanes
- Limited parking and loading which directly impact small local businesses

In order to Renew Preston Village as a thriving, walkable, people centred community, we are campaigning for changes to the road layout which makes space for, and creates opportunities for, improvements in public realm, air and noise pollution, local economy, flood mitigation and accidents involving motor vehicles.

Measures should include but are not limited to;

1. Better crossings & more space for people walking & wheeling
2. Rain Gardens & Street trees to mitigate flooding
3. Parking & loading bays for easy access to shops
4. Bus stops in the village, closer to the shops and pubs
5. Protected space for people cycling

*Please see our website [www.prestonvillage.org](http://www.prestonvillage.org) for more information.*

The measures and solutions proposed by Renew Preston Village are supported by a range of research studies and policy papers from the UK Gov Department for Transport, Brighton & Hove Council and a range of Non-Governmental Organisations including Living Streets, Active Travel England, Create Streets, Cycling UK, Sustrans, South Downs National Park Authority.

#### 3.4 To receive the following petition:

##### **Toilets at Black Rock**

We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to urgently ensure there are appropriate and accessible toilet facilities at Black Rock where Volks Railway's station is whilst we wait for Southern Water to upgrade the building.

Despite asking BHCC to ensure that there are sufficient toilet facilities at Black Rock, there are still none.

Southern Water are in the process of upgrading the Black Rock building, with Volks Railway open with tourists ending / starting their journey there.

The Sea Lanes to Marina area of Black Rock is getting busier every week, however there is a severe lack of accessible toilets in the area for residents and visitors alike, with coaches often unloading their passengers around that area.

The local businesses are suffering as visitors demand use of their facilities, which are often not suitable for the numbers required, as well as those who are sleeping in vans along the seafront using these facilities for cleaning themselves in the morning.

We demand that BHCC sort out this situation as a matter of urgency and ensure temporary toilets are located in the Black Rock Volks Railway area suitable for all.



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## Council

## Agenda Item 20

**Subject:** Written questions from members of the public

**Date of meeting:** 10 July 2025

A period of not more than thirty 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.

### **1. Question from: David Gibson**

Bringing seaside homes back in house: When the decision was made by the previous administration with cross party support to bring seaside homes back in house, officers advised committee it would take around 6 months. At that time this was a priority since the buy out would reduce the rents of homeless households greatly amidst a cost of living squeeze. Also, at the time, interest rates were very favourable to the council buying out the bank loan. It is now well over 2 years and interest rates are becoming less favourable so the longer this is delayed the worse for council finances and less benefit for homeless households. Has the new council decided to reverse the previous decision to bring seaside homes back into full council ownership?

### **2. Question from: Ian Needham**

Loss of housing income from falling rent collection performance  
Last year the council collected a lower percentage of rents from council tenants than the year before. Had the council's target for rent collection been achieved there would be £1.7m extra to spend. It is estimated this uncollected money could provide:

- 1) Finance to enable the council to buy 25 council homes each year
- 2) 340 new boilers
- 3) 115 new kitchens
- 4) 425 window replacements

Around 98% of rent was collected in years pre COVID, now it is around 93%. It is understandable that rent collection rates drop in COVID, but that was 4 years ago and rates that should be climbing back to pre COVID rates are still falling. This is a waste of money that could be put towards improving homes, and building new ones. Why is council's rent collection still getting worse whilst other councils are improving?

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## 3. Question from: Diane Montgomery

Shared ownership is not truly affordable: Shared ownership is counted towards developer contributions as an affordable housing contribution by the planning committee. But the truth is that it is not truly affordable and is actually out of reach of most low income households in the city. Also, legally, shared ownership homes cannot be ring fenced to exclusively benefit local residents. Whilst it does have merit as an intermediate offer, it should not be counted in the way it currently is (on an par to affordable rented homes) when agreeing a developers affordable contribution in the planning process. "Affordable" rented housing actually benefits more low income households and should be prioritised locally. We urge the council to change its guidance for planning to favour affordable rented at 95% vs Shared ownership at 5%. Will the council agree to produce a report to consider making this change?

## 4. Question from: Anne Pissaridou

There have been reports of incidents of "water pollution" in the vicinity of the King Alfred Centre recently and that this has resulted in swimmers needing hospital treatment. Can you tell me how many people in our city have been affected by the poor quality of water in our sea and coming out of our taps and how serious these incidents have been in terms of the affect on the health of those affected please?

## 5. Question from: Sophie Odgers-Roe

Why is council land being sold off when it could be used for council housing? We're in the middle of a housing crisis and we desperately need more council housing. Surely this land needs to be kept and used to benefit the people of Brighton & Hove?

## 6. Question from: Toby Sedgwick

Does the council agree that time and again in Brighton, developers have attempted to reduce the amount of affordable housing they have pledged, such as at Circus St, the Gasworks, Sackville Road and Wellsbourne Rd? If so, will you pledge to work to keep these developers away from council land, ensuring it's used for council housing instead?

## 7. Question from: Heather McKnight

Why are decisions around the selling off of council land being kept secret from the public and press, are there proposals to address how the public are supposed to register their opposition to the council selling off our land if they aren't allowed to know it's happening?

**Council**

**Agenda Item 21**

**Subject: Deputations from members of the public**

**Date of meeting: 10 July 2025**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Council for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes following which one Member of the council, nominated by the mayor, may speak in response. It shall then be moved by the mayor and voted on without discussion that the spokesperson for the deputation be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

Notification that two deputations have been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

**1. Deputation concerning the Living Rent Campaign**

Supported by:

Sheila Rimmer  
Ian Needham  
Sarah Gorton  
Ian MacIntyre  
Lynora Knott  
David Gibson

Summary of deputation:

Private rents in the city have become as expensive as many parts of London.

This cost of housing is forcing many people born and bred in Brighton to leave family and community. Schools are closing. Now that the council and government are controlled by the same party, we have real opportunity to bring in local rent controls

Last year the number of homeless households in temporary accommodation in the city increased by 200. According to the annual count of rough sleepers this administration has overseen an 85% increase in rough sleeping over its first 2 years. **Its time to act.**

Relying on private housing developers to solve the housing crisis is doomed to fail since their profits depend on a shortage of housing that keeps prices high. Historically affordable house building has only happened at scale in the 1950's and 1960's when governments of either political colour built 200-300,000 new

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council homes nationally each year. This approach is needed now and is the only way to tackle homelessness and high rented insecure private sector renting. By providing billions on social housing grant the government could make this happen and make serious inroads into the housing crisis in Brighton and Hove. Spending billions in social housing investment to achieve low rents more than pays for itself in the longer run through billions saved in housing benefit bills. **It is investing to save.**

We therefore ask the council to write to the government urging them to:

1. Allow councils to bring down extortionate rents through local rent controls in areas where costs are too high
2. To invest £10 billion in social housing grant to build a significant number of social rented council homes to tackle homelessness, high rental costs and save even more billions in housing benefit bills in the long term

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### 2. **Deputation concerning the Community Campaign for Brighton General Hospital Site**

Supported by:

Clare Jones (Sussex Defend the NHS)  
Charles Harrison (Brighton and Hove Housing Coalition)  
Diane Montgomery (Living Rent Campaign)  
Dinah Clarke (Hanover Action)  
Sarah Mc Carthy (Hanover and Elm Grove Communities Forum)  
Jerome Cox- Strong (Pankhurst Pantry Food Shop)  
Nick Wells (Brighton and Hove Citizens)

#### Summary of deputation:

Deputation to council from Housing campaigns, Health campaigns and Community groups in Hanover and Elm Grove (endorsed (30 votes-1) by a meeting held on 24.6.25 at the edge community room, Pankhurst estate)

We wish to see the development a peoples plan on the unused parts of the Brighton General Hospital site for public benefit.

We note that the site was originally gifted to the people of Brighton and believe it is a precious public asset crying out to be developed for public benefit. To that end we welcome the council deputy leaders statement that there is a plan for 500 homes on the site at social rents (reported in the Argus on 17<sup>th</sup> March). This will make a significant contribution to the cities affordable housing shortage. We also welcome the commitment to carbon neutral homes and that the council is “open” to buying the site and we believe that keeping the site in public/community ownership will maximise the benefit for people in our the city for generations. We ask that the council commit to doing this.

We would like to work with the council (and Trust) to progress the fullest possible use of the site in partnership with the community. We recognise that the government must ensure that the site (subsequently gifted to the NHS by the council) is sold back to the council at a reasonable price so as to make possible the development of eco friendly social housing (500 as per the council plan) and potentially more key worker homes, continued provision of health facilities (possibly as a health hub), step down beds and community facilities in line with the emerging peoples plan for the site

We ask the council

1. Will you commit to working with our campaign to help realise its goals?

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2. Will you work with us and the community on the fullest possible engagement over the creation of a peoples plan centred around maximising public benefit from the site?
3. Will you commit to purchasing the site from the Health Trust (who were originally gifted the site from the council)?
4. Will you push the government to approve sale of the site at a price that enables 500 social homes and maximises the public benefits include the “campaign statement”?

### **Supporting information:**

#### **Community Campaign for Brighton General Hospital site - 01.07.25**

#### **Statement from housing and health campaigns, and local community groups in Hanover and Elm Grove.**

Our vision is that the Brighton General site should be publicly owned and re-developed for public benefit.

We note that the site was originally gifted to the people of Brighton. It is a precious public asset for the city, which we believe should be developed for public benefit. In line with maximising the public benefit of the unused areas of the site, we seek commitment that the site should

1. Be held/remain in public/community ownership
2. Prioritise much needed social and key worker housing (500+ homes)
3. Achieve a health hub and community health facilities (possibly including step down beds)
4. Deliver new community space and facilities and developed with healthy planning principles
5. Be developed around the fullest engagement with residents and stakeholders on a peoples plan guided by these public goods.
6. Maximise sustainability and biodiversity.

If the council, Trust, and government develop plans that meet these needs and ensure the site is sold to the Council or community at a reasonable price; we will campaign in support of these developments. Should other plans develop that do not meet these conditions, our goal will remain that the Brighton General site should be publicly owned and re-developed for public benefit.

We oppose any attempts to privatise the site.

### **Currently endorsed by:**

Brighton and Hove Housing coalition

Hanover and Elm Grove Communities Forum

Sussex Defend the NHS

Hanover Action

# Brighton & Hove City Council

Living Rent Campaign

Friends of the Patch

Who owns Brighton

Brighton and Hove Citizens

Albion Life

# Brighton & Hove City Council

## 3. Deputation concerning Youth Council Manifesto & Key Priorities

Supported by:

Melissa Nielsen-Williams

Malak Gobari

Sonny Steffes

Robert Sales

Erin Bowie

Lily Wan

Africa Colino

Summary of deputation:

### **Purpose:**

We are here today to present a deputation asking for the Council to acknowledge the Youth Council's listening process and Manifesto as representative of young people's issues in the city and to include it in decisions being made that impact young people.

### **Context:**

Youth Council is a group of young people elected or nominated by their peers through schools, colleges, and youth organisations in the city. They represent the wider views of young people in through a process of representation and listening. It currently has 35 active members who are in their two-year term, which finishes in December 2025. We aim to represent young people's views in several ways, including sitting on steering groups and committees, feeding into consultations, and running campaigns.

### **Process:**

Youth Council members start their term with a training programme to give them skills to enable them to be representative of young people, E.g., running focus groups, conducting research, and understanding data. We conduct a citywide survey at the beginning of our term, which this term engaged with over 3700 young people\*. Health & Wellbeing, Education & Learning, and Jobs, the Economy & Benefits were highlighted as the three top priorities for young people. The Youth Council then ran 11 focus groups in schools and colleges to understand the details of each priority. From these focus groups, the issues that occurred most often formed the Youth Council Manifesto.

### **Action:**

The Youth Council Manifesto outlines 14 key issues that young people have highlighted as important. These sit within the three top priorities that were voted on by young people. Three campaigns are being developed in response to the priority issues for young people, one under each priority. Our health and wellbeing campaign is developing a youth charter highlighting how young



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people want to be engaged with by health and wellbeing professionals. Our Education & Learning Campaign is creating a PSHE Workshop, giving young people aged 14 – 16 an introduction to the necessary skills to find entry-level jobs in the local economy. Our Jobs, Economy & Benefits Campaign is organising an entry-level skills fair with workshops developed in partnership with local businesses. The workshops will teach young people aged 16-18 relevant skills to find part-time entry-level jobs in the local economy.

### **Recommendation:**

We ask the council to acknowledge the Youth Council Manifesto as a representation of the issues that are important to young people in Brighton and Hove and include it within all decision-making that impacts young people in the city. This is in line with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to include young people's voices in decision-making that impacts them, and to give their voice influence in those decisions. This is not only a right, but also, we know from previous experience that when young people's views are taken into account in decisions that impact them, the outcomes for young people are better.

\*3770 young people in total took part from Brighton & Hove. Figures differ from the 3638 given in the Make Your Mark report, as this did not include those who participated in schools outside of Brighton & Hove but who live within Brighton & Hove. This data was released by the British Youth Council afterwards.

### **Supporting information:**

Please see appendix – Youth Council Manifesto



# MAKE YOUR MARK

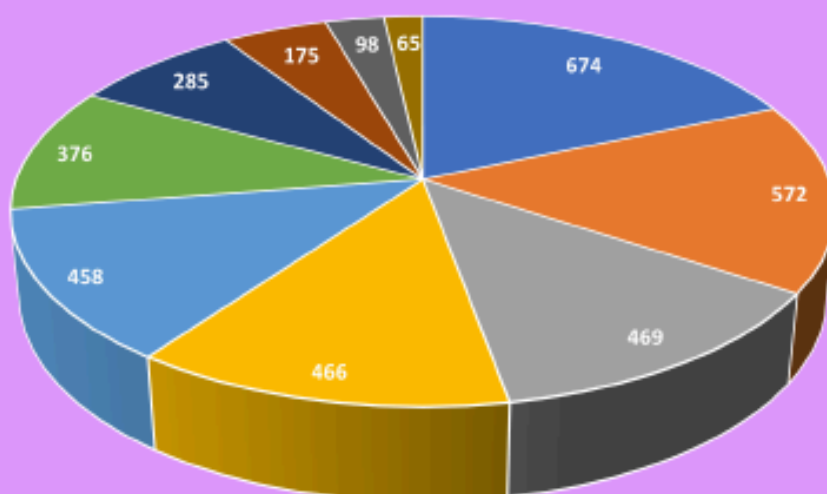
## RESULTS

**TOTAL  
VOTES  
3638**

## TOP 3 ISSUES

- **Health & Wellbeing**
- **Education & Learning**
- **Jobs, The Economy & Benefits**

- Health and Wellbeing
- Education and Learning
- Jobs, Economy and Benefits
- Rights, Equalities and Democracy
- Culture, Media and Sport
- Climate Change and Environment
- Crime and Safety
- Transport
- International Relations
- Youth Work and Young People's Services



### Top Issues

**11- 14 Year Olds:  
Culture, Media & Sport**

**15-18 Year Olds:  
Health & Wellbeing**

### Percentage of Vote (%)

Health & Wellbeing: 19%  
Education & Learning: 16%  
Jobs, Economy and Benefits: 13%  
Rights, Equalities & Democracy: 13%  
Culture, Media & Sport: 13%  
Climate Change and Environment: 10%  
Crime & Safety: 8%  
Transport: 5%  
International Relations: 3%  
Youth Work & Young People's Services: 2%



# HEALTH & WELLBEING KEY PRIORITIES

## Respect and Autonomy

The Youth Council believes young people should be treated in a welcoming and respectful manner in healthcare settings and should have greater autonomy when it comes to discussions about their health.

1

**RESPECT**

## Accessibility to Health Services

The Youth Council believes there should be greater accessibility and shorter waiting times for health services, especially for mental health services.

2

## Clear information on Services & Treatment

The Youth Council believes young people should have clearer information about how to access health services and about their healthcare treatment.

3



## School adaptive to Mental Health

The Youth Council believes that schools should be more open to adapting to the needs of young people's mental health.

4

## Information on Vaping

The Youth Council believes that young people should have more information about the health risks of vaping.

5



# EDUCATION & LEARNING KEY PRIORITIES

## Uniform

Schools and Colleges should have uniforms which are inclusive, comfortable and affordable for all their students. Uniform rules should not inhibit learning

1



## Decolonising the Curriculum

Education should offer a broad curriculum that is inclusive and representative of the global input to culture, education, learning and development

2



## Education to Prepare us for Life

PSHE should prepare young people, financially, emotionally and physically for adult life. It should have space for open and honest conversation led by experts within their relevant field on topics chosen by young people

3

**Let's Grow Together**

## School Food

Schools should offer meals which are appealing, sustainable, traceable, affordable (in line with free school meals allowance) and inclusive (of dietary needs) for all young people

4



## Neurodiverse Learning Environments

All schools should create environments that are accepting and inclusive of neurodiversity. Embedded through people, spaces and processes in the school

5



# JOBS, THE ECONOMY & BENEFITS KEY PRIORITIES

## Looking for Work

Young People should have a comprehensive knowledge & skillset around employment to enable them to thrive in the job market

1



## Real Life Work Experience

Young people should have regular access to different opportunities to experience real life work environments

2



## Fair Access to Work Opportunities

Young people should have fair and equal access to job and volunteering opportunities. This should incorporate adjustments for additional needs and disabilities.

3



## Fair and Equal Pay

All people should be paid based on the responsibility they hold, skills needed for the job and their ability to do the work. Age should not be a factor in pay

4

