

COUNCIL ADDENDUM 1

4.30PM, MONDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2025

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

ADDENDUM

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Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 39

Subject: Written questions from Councillors

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

Report of: Director of Governance & Law

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Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

The following questions have been received from Councillors and will be taken as read along with the written answers detailed in a further addendum:

1. Councillor Hill asked:

Residents in my ward on Springfield Road have complained about noise from filming in the early hours of the morning and removal of parking spaces. Added to this has been what they consider insufficient notice and a consultation with residents on this. Would the administration consider changing its policies around this and offer an apology to those affected on Springfield Road?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport and City Infrastructure

2. Councillor Hill asked:

The Clocktower Sanctuary told me Young homeless people in the city under 25 lack specific emergency accommodation. Young people at the sanctuary told me they have been endangered by this. While young people specific accommodation exists for temporary accommodation, would it be sensible to acquire something similar in the context of rising need in both emergency and temporary accommodation?

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing

3. Councillor West asked:

The unpatriotic 'raising the colours' campaign is leading to an increasing number of unauthorised national flags being attached to street furniture in Brighton and Hove. Many people in the community recognise the nativist, racist, motivations behind this and feel intimidated and offended. I am pleased that the council recognised this and are making efforts to remove these offending articles. I understand that on occasions contractors attempting to

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remove flags have received abuse, also that in some cases the flags have been swiftly replaced by perpetrators. I am deeply concerned that the council does not allow the phenomenon to become established and normalised. What additional resources are the administration planning to allocate to swiftly clampdown on the appearance of unauthorised flags?

Reply from Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Public Realm

4. Councillor West asked:

In a recent media release Councillor Rowkins celebrates the introduction of plastic Pots, Tubs and Trays recycling by the administration. Looking at the list of plastic items collected for recycling, which includes prepared vegetable and fruit trays, soup and pasta sauce pots, ready meal bowls and pastry trays, I am mindful that all these items are either unnecessary packaging and or can be made of metal, glass or plant-based alternatives. The question then arises whether offering to recycle these single use plastic items is just aiding and abetting the perpetuation of their manufacture and use. Moreover, given the energy required to collect, separate, transport and re-process these low grade plastic materials, is it even sustainable to do so? Just because an item can be recycled doesn't necessarily make it a good idea. Will Rowkins shift focus to promoting waste reduction and the use of non-plastic packaging?

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

5. Councillor Shanks asked:

In December 2024 the council appointed a third party company New Timber, to work with city parks in order to undertake rapid reinstatement of damaged green spaces following use by outdoor events. Can the council therefore list the reinstatement fees and bonds each event has paid since the new policy was introduced in December 2024 and where those funds are being held?

Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet Member for Sports, Recreation & Libraries

6. Councillor Shanks asked:

Regarding Valley Gardens, can the council confirm when the reinstatement of the grassed areas will take place and give precise details of the nature of the work and a breakdown of the costs? Is the council liable for any shortfalls or will event organisers meet additional charges? Will any underspend be retained by city parks or returned to the event organisers?

Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet Member for Sports, Recreation & Libraries

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7. Councillor Sykes asked:

In previous responses about Palmeira Square, the administration have referred to the development of a memorial policy under the auspices of the forthcoming Events Strategy, whose draft earlier this year had no mention of a memorial policy in it. Would a public space memorial policy not sit better under our Parks and Open Spaces strategy, which is due for renewal by 2027? Please update on progress of the memorial policy.

Reply from Councillor Miller, Cabinet Member for Culture, Heritage and Tourism

8. Councillor Sykes asked:

Will the administration work with ward councillors to seek better protection from utility company contractors, for curtilage infrastructure in our nationally-important heritage streets and squares?

Reply from Councillor Miller, Cabinet Member for Culture, Heritage and Tourism

9. Councillor McLeay asked:

Leeds City Council offers up to 40% discretionary business rate relief—capped at £15,000 per business—for those delivering social or civic value, such as employing local people, paying the living wage, or supporting environmental goals. Could Brighton & Hove City Council consider introducing a similar scheme to support independent businesses, particularly those demonstrating social value and financial need?

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance and City Regeneration

10. Councillor McLeay asked:

The government intends to permanently lower rates for Retail, Hospitality and Leisure (RHL) relief properties from 2026–27. Given this, is Brighton & Hove City Council currently collecting any data or evidence on the local impact of recent business rate changes? If not, could councillors request that such data be gathered to better understand how local traders are being affected and to inform future policy decisions?

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance and City Regeneration

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11. Councillor Lademacher asked:

Residents placed in temporary accommodation managed by Baron Homes have reported experiencing poor living conditions that may pose risks to health and safety. These concerns include issues such as mould, ceiling damage, rodent activity, leaks, structural defects, and potential fire safety breaches. There are also reports of delays in addressing urgent and emergency repairs. What immediate steps is the Council taking to investigate these concerns and ensure Baron Homes meets its responsibilities to provide safe and habitable accommodation?

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing

12. Councillor Pickett asked:

Now that we are at the end of the 'educate and inform' year, whereby it was decided that fines for those ignoring the city's Smoke Control Areas would be commuted, will the administration move on from issuing warnings and restart fining those people, intent on burning solid fuels that poison the city's air?

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

13. Councillor Pickett asked:

How are housing complaints made by telephone, email or in person logged, and are they recorded as formal complaints and included in the totals reported to councillors? If a resident uses a route other than the webform, what is the standard process to ensure it is captured, acknowledged and progressed?

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing

14. Councillor Goldsmith asked:

Is there a clear desire and commitment to improve housing services for tenants? If so, why aren't there any targets being set for tenant satisfaction measures and how can services demonstrably improve without defined targets to aim for and report against.

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing

15. Councillor Goldsmith asked:

In the council's 'Homing In' magazine Autumn 25, P8 states that 26.2% (down from 29.9% previously) of residents are satisfied with the council's approach to complaints handling. Whilst this is within the parameters nationally, these statistics are shockingly low. Do you think this is acceptable and what is the council doing to improve these statistics?

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing

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16. Councillor West asked:

Abandoned bikes litter our streets, often left locked to cycle racks reducing available space and leaving many cyclists to resort to locking to street furniture which results in damage and maintenance cost to the council. There is an abandoned vehicle service responding to reports of abandoned bikes, removing them and getting them recycled all at considerable cost to the council. There is no signage on cycle parking stands communicating that abandoning bikes is a costly nuisance and signposting opportunities for reuse, recycling, or disposal. Surely, we wish to encourage and assist people to do the right thing. I have had a reply from Highways saying the cost of installing signage would be prohibitive, but I have seen no impact analysis of the cost-benefit that signage may have if it reduces abandonment. Can this proposal be properly considered, please.

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport and City Infrastructure

17. Councillor McLeay asked:

Given that the national ban on single-use vapes came into force on 1 June 2025, what specific actions are being taken by Brighton & Hove City Council and the Trading Standards team to enforce this ban locally? In addition, what support is being provided to businesses to help them responsibly dispose of or recycle any remaining stock of single-use vapes, and how are we ensuring they understand the distinction between banned disposable products and legal reusable alternatives?

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

18. Councillor Sykes asked:

Should all campaigning clothing and accessories be banned from the council chamber, how is this to be defined (for example concerning colours of flags) and do we need to change our council constitution?

Reply from Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council

19. Councillor Meadows asked:

Despite promises by this administration, and many before, to update and landscape Patcham roundabout, and even getting to the point with officers and sponsor of having a workable solution, no progress has been made. When will Patcham roundabout be landscaped?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet member for Transport and City Infrastructure

Brighton & Hove City Council

20. Councillor Theobald asked:

Can you please tell me why the Council has not repaired the pavement outside Hove Town Hall where I tripped and fractured my arm on the 6th August?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet member for Transport and City Infrastructure

21. Councillor Theobald asked:

Please list the amount collected from owners/developers or contractors over the last three years for reinstating damaged footways/pavements caused by contractors' heavy lorries parking on the same during building works?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport and City Infrastructure

22. Councillor Meadows asked:

Many residents in Greenfield Crescent are unhappy with being included in the Wilder Verges project. Dog owners are unable to walk their dogs in their local green space, and the number of dogs being taken to the vets because of grass burrs buried in their skin has increased. Were residents included in a consultation process? Why weren't local councillors informed of this? Can the council ensure residents are included in future consultations? Why were dog owners' needs ignored?

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

23. Councillor McNair asked:

When is the long grass at the cemetery at All Saints church Patcham going to be cut back? It was not cut on 30 September. This has not happened despite numerous emails and reassurances it would. Visitors cannot access the graves.

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

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24. Councillor McNair asked:

Residents are concerned that drains down Carden Hill are blocked – indeed, may have been tarmacked over with the recent resurfacing – and that when it rains water pours down the hill causing flooding in Hollingbury and very probably Carden Avenue. When are the drains in Carden Hill due to be inspected and unblocked?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet member for Transport and City Infrastructure

25. Councillor Lyons asked:

Why does the Council have so little desire for recycling? One of the last councils in the country to recycle food wastage & has no plans to start collecting used batteries from households. About 25% of councils (roughly 100 out of 391) offer kerbside collections for batteries and small electricals, covering ~23% of households.

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet member for Net Zero and Environmental Services

26. Councillor Hogan asked:

We were given a snapshot of the number of empty homes with a briefing on 3 March 2025. However, when will the 2024 figure be issued?

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet member for Housing

27. Councillor Lyons asked:

Please can you look into improving the facilities at Nevill Park in Hove? There is not a single seating bench which are needed. In addition, can there be a children's playground and other public facilities installed eg gym/climbing equipment etc? There is huge demand due to the number of people and schools here. There are various flats being built in this area so there is a strong case for sil money to be used. It is a forgotten part of Hove that deserves attention.

Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet member for Sports, Recreation and Libraries

28. Councillor Lyons asked:

Residents in Woodland Drive are requesting additional parking measures as cars are often parked for long periods in the road causing congestion. We will provide residents responses that we have received.

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet member for Transport and City Infrastructure

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29. Councillor Fishleigh asked:

The Saltdean charity wanted to put hanging baskets on lamp posts this summer using the same company that Rottingdean In Bloom uses. However, I was advised that this wasn't possible until BHCC has finalised a new policy WRT lamp posts. When will this be ready please?

Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet Member for Sports, Recreation & Libraries

30. Councillor Earthey asked:

The introduction of 'X buses' is clearly very successful, but those of us with long memories say that all you have done is rekindle the demand for limited-stop services identified 15 – 20 years ago under the 'Brighton Metro' debate. Given the major success of the X bus services, can you commit to expanding the X bus programme, and reopening the old bus-based 'Brighton Metro' project, even considering a type of 'Brighton Crossrail' X bus?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport and City Infrastructure

31. Councillor Bagaeen asked:

In September, the Leader of the Council urged pension fund bosses in East Sussex to say whether any of their investments are linked to "atrocities taking place in Palestine", specifically asking whether the pension fund currently has any exposure to any companies on the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) list.

Divestment campaigns urge banks, alongside local government pension funds, and universities to withdraw investments from companies that help sustain what is a widely held view of Israel's genocide in the region.

Might the Leader of the Council be open to write to the Vice Chancellors of our Universities and banks operating in our city urging them to divest, and additionally launch a divestment campaign in Brighton and Hove as an effective way of showing solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for freedom?

Reply from Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council

32. Councillor Bagaeen asked:

Brighton & Hove City Council was ordered to pay the developer's full costs after a Planning Inspector ruled in favor of the Gasworks redevelopment scheme, finding the council's reasons for refusal unsubstantiated and that the development's "very substantial" benefits outweighed its "limited" harm to heritage and amenity. The council had refused permission for the mixed-use development due to concerns about overdevelopment, design, and lack of

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affordable homes, but the inspector and Secretary of State endorsed the scheme's benefits, including site remediation, housing delivery, and biodiversity gain.

In refusing planning permission, against officer recommendations, 7 out of 10 members of the planning committee voted for refusal.

What lessons has the council learnt from this hugely costly mistake in allowing elected members to override officer recommendations for planning?

Reply from Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council

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Agenda Item 46a

Subject: Protect Independent Scrutiny, Save Healthwatch England

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

Proposer: Councillor Hill

Seconder: Councillor Earthey

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Green Group & Brighton & Hove Independent Group

This council notes:

- 1) The Health Secretary's proposal to abolish the independent local health and social care champion Healthwatch and to give health scrutiny powers over to Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). This will mean that the new Sussex and Surrey Heartlands ICB would take on Brighton & Hove Healthwatch's function locally next April. Social Care scrutiny powers would move to Councils.
- 2) That 35,000 residents have been supported by Healthwatch Brighton & Hove since 2013.
- 3) Concerns raised by Brighton & Hove Older People's Council about the disproportionate harm the government's proposal will have on elderly people.
- 4) The letter by Gary Wilkinson, Chair of Brighton & Hove's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee raising the committee's concerns about the work Healthwatch does in ensuring people have up to date information, sharing people's experiences with commissioners and supporting individuals to navigate a complex healthcare landscape.
- 5) The campaign led by local Healthwatch teams to oppose this proposal and to ask the Health Secretary to undertake a consultation with the public to codesign the future of scrutiny services.

This council resolves to:

- 1) Ask the Council Leader to write to the Health Secretary calling for him to change the NHS 10 Year Plan in order to keep Healthwatch England and not to transfer scrutiny powers to ICBs. Concerns should be raised about

having Councils and ICBs marking their own homework, especially at a time when ICBs are being cut by 50%.

- 2) Ask Councillors to consider signing and sharing the petition by Samantha Botsford opposing Healthwatch's abolition with residents.

Supporting Information:

Petition to review the decision to abolish independent local Healthwatch:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/732993>

Local Healthwatch letter to Secretary of State:

<https://www.healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk/news/2025-07-18/our-letter-secretary-state-opposing-decision-abolish-independent-healthwatch>

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Agenda Item 46b

Subject: Gaza and Council Financial Exposure

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

Proposer: Councillor Sykes

Seconder: Councillor Shanks

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Green Group

This council notes:

- 1) The widespread view, including of the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS)¹ on 31/08/25 and a UN Independent Commission² on 16/09/25, that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza;
- 2) That recent legal analysis has raised concerns that third-party states, including the UK, must ensure their activities do not contribute to violations of international law;
- 3) That this analysis has further suggested these responsibilities apply to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and other local government activities under domestic law;³
- 4) The recent letter from our Council Leader to the Chair of the ESCC Pension Committee requesting an update further to report A/HRC/37/39 of the UN Human Rights Council and East Sussex Pension Fund (ESPF) exposure.

Therefore, Council resolves to:

- 1) Request officers to bring a report to the Audit, Standards and General Purposes Committee detailing the exposure of ESPF, of our treasury management and of our freehold landholdings to *'involved companies'*³;
- 2) Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Rt Hon Steve Reed, Secretary of State at MHCLG, informing him of the Council's concerns and requesting that he support the action of divesting LGPS investments from *'involved companies'*.

Supporting information:

References

1. [Israel committing genocide in Gaza, world's leading experts say - BBC News](#)
2. [Israel has committed genocide in the Gaza Strip, UN Commission finds | OHCHR](#)
3. 'Local government pension scheme investments in companies involved in the occupied palestinian territory and israel's military offensive in the gaza strip', Legal position paper by Max du Plessis S.C., Tatyana Eatwell and Joshua Jackson, with the assistance of Deighton Pierce Glynn solicitors, 27 Aug 2025 (<https://palestinecampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/Position-Paper.pdf>, accessed 18/09/2025)

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Agenda Item 46c

Subject: Enforcing Covenant on land in West Saltdean

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

Proposer: Councillor Earthey

Seconder: Councillor Fishleigh

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Brighton & Hove Independents Group

This council notes:

- 1) The 1938 agreement between Saltdean Estate Company Ltd, the Borough of Brighton and The Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Brighton which details various conditions attached to three separate plots of land known as The Mount Estate in West Saltdean – and described as open spaces in the Covenant.
- 2) That Clause 4 of 1938 agreement gives BHCC the powers to formally designate the land as public open space.
- 3) That the three plots of land are designated as Local Green Spaces in the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan which gives them the same protection as land in the green belt.
- 4) That locked gates have been installed meaning the land cannot be enjoyed as the open space the covenant intended.

This council resolves to:

- 1) Request that officers prepare a report to be presented to Cabinet about the processes, timescale and costs of invoking Clause 4 of the Covenant for plots 2 and 3 of The Mount Estate.

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Agenda Item 46d

Subject: Inequality and Life Outcomes in Brighton & Hove

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

Proposer: Councillor Taylor

Seconder: Councillor Guilmant

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Labour Group

This council notes:

- 1) That the UK remains one of the most unequal countries in the developed world, with child poverty rising sharply under the previous government.¹
- 2) That inequality is particularly stark in Brighton & Hove, with a recent Sutton Trust report highlighting that parts of our city have some of the lowest social mobility in the country.²
- 3) The steps already taken locally to tackle inequality; creating a fairness fund to directly support residents; priority school admissions for those on Free School Meals; new school bus routes and free bus passes for Whitehawk families; free school meals for those educated at home.
- 4) Government's steps to alleviate child poverty including expanding eligibility for Free School Meals and signals that the former Coalition Government's two child benefit cap will be scrapped.
- 5) The welcome news from government of £20m for Whitehawk through the Pride in Place programme, with local residents directly shaping how funding will be invested.

This council resolves to:

- 1) Request the relevant Cabinet Member to consider a formal review of inequality in the city, and the impact it has on life chances; drawing on lived-experience, and welcoming input from residents and experts in a 'call for evidence'

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-child-poverty-developing-our-strategy/tackling-child-poverty-developing-our-strategy-html>

² <https://www.suttontrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/The-Opportunity-Index.pdf>

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Agenda Item 46e

Subject: King Alfred Leisure Centre

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

Proposer: Cllr Alistair McNair

Seconder: Cllr Anne Meadows

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Conservative Group

This Council notes:

- 1) Residents are worried about the financial viability of the plans at a time when the council is struggling financially;
- 2) The phase three consultation process in 2024 attracted only around 3600 responses¹;
- 3) The proposed facility is smaller than the existing one (e.g. 25m pool, modest 6-court hall), despite claims of a “world-class” centre² while costs have inflated from £47m (2024) to £65m (2025 RIBA 2);
- 4) The residential build is intrinsically related to the build of the leisure centre, and that they should be considered together;
- 5) There is no clear contingency for construction inflation, climate adaptation, or operator underperformance;
- 6) The King Alfred is already popular, and that popularity will be hard to increase given the small-scale nature of the upgrade;
- 7) The predictions of visitor numbers are highly speculative, and the cost will be much higher than the council is forecasting. This is potentially another i360.
- 8) The council is very unlikely to ensure that 40% of the housing stock is affordable.

This Council resolves to:

- 1) Request that Cabinet reconsider:
 - a) A pausing of the approval by cabinet of £2.3m in resources until the plans for housing have been set out;
 - b) And a pausing of approval until the whole of the site is provisionally costed so taxpayers are not left counting the cost.

¹ [Engagement and consultation for King Alfred development](#)

² [Exciting new plans unveiled for King Alfred Leisure Centre](#)

