

Appendix A

Brighton and Hove City Council Submission to the LGA under first round of Sustainable Communities Act includes the following proposals:

Proposals
<p>1. That councils been given authority to offer discretionary business rate relief to encourage and sustain small and medium local businesses</p> <p>Rate relief could be offered in the form of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing the threshold for small business rate relief 2. Disaggregating rate relief when businesses own more than two properties in a local area and offer a percentage reduction over three years on a second property (50% 1st year, 25% 2nd year, 10% third year) 3. Allow for 3 month deferral of part or all of the rates <p>That any discretionary rate proposed be consulted on with the business community via the relevant business forums in the city.</p> <p>That the power be considered for use to encourage key existing or emerging sectors to the local economy for example creative sector or the environmental industries sector.</p> <p>That local be defined as either locally-owned, independent businesses or businesses where a significant percentage of their profits/turnover is considered to remain in the locality.</p>
<p>2. That legislation is changed to allow allotment holders to sell their surplus produce to local businesses.</p> <p>Onus is on the purchaser to verify safety and origin of the food.</p>
<p>3. That food growing be introduced as part of the national curriculum either on or off school sites.</p>
<p>4. That national planning policy, specifically planning policy statement 1 is changed to explicitly support localised food systems.</p> <p>Specifically the planning policy should encourage the provision of food infrastructure including urban and peri-urban abattoirs, bakeries, dairies and food hubs.</p>
<p>5. That the legal restriction that prevents councils which own housing to borrow against the Housing Revenue Account (rent) is removed.</p>
<p>6. That legislation is amended to release existing and accumulated capital receipts from the sale of council housing to councils to build new affordable housing or invest in existing affordable housing.</p>

7. That the installation and use of renewable energy by households is made more accessible and affordable by:

1. requiring all energy companies to make the process by which households can sell surplus energy from their renewable sources to energy companies simpler
2. Dividing the national grant fund for supporting residential installation of renewables between local council for administration locally.

8. That councils are given the power to set vehicle speed limits on public roads at any maximum below existing regulations, according to local needs.

Use of power would require consultation with communities likely to be affected, with Police and other appropriate public agencies for example health authority.

9. That legislation is introduced that requires supermarkets –

- (i) To reduce its use of food packing that is non-recyclable
- (ii) To provide recycling facilities for plastic not recycled by the council;
- (iii) To ensure that the plastic is recycled or, where this is not practicable, to bear the cost of treating it as landfill waste.