



**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

**CONSERVATIVE GROUP  
Room G84, Hove Town Hall  
Norton Road, Hove BN23 3BQ**

16 November 2022

Geoff Raw  
CEO, Brighton & Hove City Council  
Hove Town Hall, Hove, East Sussex. BN3 3BQ

Dear Mr Raw,

### **TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCILLOR EXPENSES**

I am submitting the following letter under Council Procedure Rule 23.3 to be included on the agenda for the Audit & Standards Committee meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022. I am writing this letter to bring the committee's attention to serious concerns about the transparency of councillor expenses.

Over the course of the past few years, we have seen the council fail in its statutory duty to publicly provide information relating to councillor expenses in a timely manner. The Local Authorities regulations on councillor expenses states that a council must publish information "as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of a year to which a scheme relates".

This has not been happening under this Council.

- Councillor expenses were not published for 3 years between April 2018 and April 2021. At the time the council apologised for this and said that immediate steps would be taken to rectify the situation.
- This year, the problems re-emerged when expenses were not published for 5 months after the end of the financial year.

In response, the Leader of the Council has promised that expenses will be published within 2 months of the end of the financial year. However, this amounts to the same promises, does not go far enough and does not address public concerns.

Given the problems that the council has had managing this issue, would the Chair support a move to a system of monthly publication of councillor expenses, as other local authorities do, to restore the trust and confidence of the public?

Yours sincerely,

**Cllr Anne Meadows  
Conservative Group Spokesperson on Audit & Standards**

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