

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 52

Subject: Solidarity with UCU strikers

Date of meeting: 19 October 2023

Proposer: Councillor Grimshaw

Seconder: Councillor Sheard

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Labour Group Amendment

That deletions are made as shown with ~~strike through~~ below and additional recommendations are added as shown in ***bold italics*** below:

This council notes:

- 1) The ~~indefinite strike~~ ***industrial action taken*** by the University and College Union ***members*** against ~~22 compulsory~~ redundancies being made at the University of Brighton, ~~that began on the 4th of July, following redundancies announced in May;~~
- 2) Concerns that ***there will be a significant impact on the university's offer in certain subjects as a result of the planned*** ~~plans to sack staff risk a~~ reduction in lecturers teaching students in education, engineering, humanities, art, media and sports science; ~~threatening the quality of education at the university, and that 82 staff have already been made redundant to date~~
- 3) ***Recognises the significant impact on staff and students in our city of the decision to make 82 staff redundant***
- 4) ***Concerns for staff who have already had their pay deducted as a result of taking industrial action***
- 5) ***Recognises the challenges that universities are facing as a result of funding pressures, the impact of the hard-Brexit, and of the Covid-19 pandemic***

Therefore, resolves to:

- 6) ~~Express its support and solidarity with the strike action, demonstrating this council's concern with the plans and urging the university to maintain a quality education offer in our city through any means possible prior to considering cutting lecturer jobs~~ ***Express our support for all workers and unions who strive for fairness and better conditions including the workers who are***

involved in the current industrial action

- ~~7) Request the Chief Executive to make representations to Universities UK [3] and Government, urging improved funding for local universities, particularly post-Brexit, given the Higher education sector contributes £95 billion to the economy and supports 815,000 jobs.~~
- 8) *Encourage and urge a satisfactory outcome to save as many jobs as possible***
- 9) *Request that officers work in partnership with the city's universities, staff and students to understand the challenges faced by the sector and explore opportunities for further lobbying of government on Higher education funding and support***

Recommendations to read if carried:

This council notes:

- 1) The industrial action taken by the University and College Union members against redundancies being made at the University of Brighton
- 2) Concerns that there will be a significant impact on the university's offer in certain subjects as a result of the planned reduction in lecturers teaching students in education, engineering, humanities, art, media and sports science
- 3) Recognises the significant impact on staff and students in our city of the decision to make 82 staff redundant
- 4) Concerns for staff who have already had their pay deducted as a result of taking industrial action
- 5) Recognises the challenges that universities are facing as a result of funding pressures, the impact of the hard-Brexit, and of the Covid-19 pandemic

Therefore, resolves to:

- 6) Express our support for all workers and unions who strive for fairness and better conditions including the workers who are involved in the current industrial action
- 7) Encourage and urge a satisfactory outcome to save as many jobs as possible
- 8) Request that officers work in partnership with the city's universities, staff and students to understand the challenges faced by the sector and explore opportunities for further lobbying of government on Higher education funding and support

Proposed by: Cllr Grimshaw

Seconded by: Cllr Sheard