

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 73

Subject: Supporting Unison's Bring It Back Campaign

Date of meeting: 30 January 2025

Proposer: Cllr Evans

Seconder: Cllr Burden

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Labour Group Amendment

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

This council notes:

- 1) Unison's #Bringitback campaign which highlights that over 14 years the previous government took £110 million from Brighton & Hove City Council through austerity measures.
 - 2) That local government services continue to be squeezed by rising costs and demand, ***and that funding streams have not kept pace*** ~~to the background of inadequate funding from central government.~~
 - 3) Concerns raised by Unison about the impact of our Council's organisation redesign on staff morale and service provision.
 - 4) Reports that the Government is considering further cuts than those already planned to public services in response to rising borrowing costs. ***The significant increases in spending on public services in the recent budget, including in vestment in local government.***
 - 5) ***The importance of the council's organisational redesign, and current spending controls, as measures to put the council on a more sustainable financial footing – allowing the authority to deliver the Council Plan***
- ~~Concerns with the effects of the hiring freeze, overtime ban and temporary stop to using agency workers.~~

Therefore, resolves to:

- 1) ~~Give its support as a Council to Unison's #Bringitback Campaign.~~ ***Continue fighting for the best funding deal for local government and residents in Brighton & Hove.***
- 2) Ensure that staff are made aware of the opportunities open to them to join a Union.
- 3) ***Welcome the recent increases in funding to local government, and the significant reduction in the budget gap faced by this authority for 2025/26.***
- 4) ***Continue to make the case for sustainable long-term funding for local government in the upcoming spending review.*** ~~Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves to call for her to reverse cuts to local councils by the last government.~~

- 4) Request the Administration to bring a report to Cabinet to look at the effects of the recent staff redesign and the effects it has had on staff and service provision.
- 5) ***Welcome the reintroduction of public engagement in the budget setting process this year, including an online budget simulator, and to encourage further such activities in future budget years.*** Request the Administration to consider additional methods for the involvement of the public in the 2025-2026 budget setting process.

Recommendations to read if carried:

This council notes:

- 1) Unison's #Bringitback campaign which highlights that over 14 years the previous government took £110 million from Brighton & Hove City Council through austerity measures.
- 2) That local government services continue to be squeezed by rising costs and demand, and that funding streams have not kept pace.
- 3) The significant increases in spending on public services in the recent budget, including investment in local government.
- 4) The importance of the council's organisational redesign, and current spending controls, as measures to put the council on a more sustainable financial footing – allowing the authority to deliver on the Council Plan.

Therefore, resolves to:

- 1) Continue fighting for the best funding deal for local government and residents in Brighton & Hove.
- 2) Ensure that staff are made aware of the opportunities open to them to join a Union
- 3) Welcome the recent increases in funding to local government, and the significant reduction in the budget gap faced by this authority for 2025/26.
- 4) Continue to make the case for sustainable long-term funding for local government in the upcoming spending review.
- 4) Welcome the reintroduction of public engagement in the budget setting process this year, including an online budget simulator, and to encourage further such activities in future budget years.