

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 112

Subject: Post-Budget Changes to the Toilet Tax

Date of meeting: 26 March 2026

Proposer: Councillor McNair

Seconder: Councillor Meadows

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Conservative Group

This council notes:

1. In Budget Council, £70,000 was earmarked to be raised by introducing charges at 5 seafront toilets;
2. This caused huge upset amongst community groups including the Older People's Council;
3. The council was not exploring the introduction of toilet charges as they had put forward this projected income in the budget, so they have now failed to provide a balanced budget;
4. A £70,000 shortfall will now have to be found;
5. Changes to the budget so quickly after it has been voted on undermines public confidence in the process.

This council resolves to:

1. Request that the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers the establishment of a task & finish group to explore the tightening of budget processes to minimise changes to the agreed Budget once it has been set by full Council;
2. Request officers to bring a report to Cabinet setting out why the Council found it necessary to U-turn on toilet charges despite the known risks in the EIA; why it was not identified prior to the publication of the budget; how the budgetary impact will be met and reported and whether further changes to the agreed Budget are proposed;
3. Request that the Administration consider issuing an apology to residents for distress caused.

