

# Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 111

**Subject:** Foodbank-Free City — From Parcels to Community Support Hubs

**Date of meeting:** 26 March 2026

**Proposer:** Councillor Mitchie Alexander  
**Seconder:** Councillor David McGregor

**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. Reliance on food banks is driven by low incomes, high living costs, ~~and gaps in statutory support.~~
2. Emergency food parcels cannot be a permanent substitute for ~~social security, housing security and properly funded public services~~ ***food and financial security.***
3. The city's community food organisations have the trust and reach in ~~providing to support a transition to dignified, non-stigmatising support.~~
4. Food is a matter of dignity and social rights, not charity or "deservingness".
5. Organisations committed to end food poverty such as the Child Poverty Action Group ***state that links between advice services and food banks should be increased.*** and the Trussell Trust have stated that a reduction in food banks should be sought by prioritising cash-first support, income maximisation, and ~~access to services.~~

#### This council resolves to:-

- 1 Support the principle of achieving the goal of a Foodbank-Free Brighton & Hove, ***by reducing poverty and strengthening preventative support.*** ~~meaning an end to routine dependence on emergency food parcels through higher incomes and statutory support.~~
- 2 Request officers ***continue to take a preventative and long-term approach in tackling food poverty and continue to work with community food organisations to support the aim within the Brighton & Hove Food Strategy Action Plan '25-'30 to help foodbanks, when appropriate, move***

~~to consider how local food banks and community food organisations can be supported to develop a transition plan to transform participating sites into Community Support Hubs that combine dignified food access with warm handovers into advice **on**, benefits, housing, debt, health and **employment support** safeguarding support.~~

- 3 Request officers to ***continue to work with residents on building financial resilience, giving advice and signposting to community food organisations when appropriate.***~~..consider cash-first and other advice routes where these are available in preference to food bank referral~~
- 4 Request officers to bring a report to Cabinet within six months, setting out delivery steps, role boundaries (so volunteers are not substitutes for statutory services), and simple measures of progress to achieve the above ambitions.  
***Request members take note of the Crisis & Resilience Fund report which sets out how the council is working to increase resilience for residents in poverty, working with community food organisations and the Community & Voluntary Sector to ensure those in food crisis receive immediate support alongside advice to prevent future crisis.***

#### **Recommendations to read if carried:**

#### **This council notes:**

1. Reliance on food banks is driven by low incomes, high living costs.
2. Emergency food parcels cannot be a permanent substitute for food and financial security.
3. The city's community food organisations have the trust and reach in providing dignified, non-stigmatising support.
4. Food is a matter of dignity and social rights, not charity or "deservingness".
5. Organisations committed to end food poverty such as the Child Poverty Action Group state that links between advice services and food banks should be increased.

#### **This council resolves to:-**

1. Support the principle of achieving the goal of a Foodbank-Free Brighton & Hove, by reducing poverty and strengthening preventative support.
2. Request officers continue to take a preventative and long-term approach in tackling food poverty and continue to work with community food organisations to support the aim within the Brighton & Hove Food Strategy Action Plan '25-'30 to help foodbanks, when appropriate, move into affordable food hubs that combine dignified food access with advice on, benefits, housing, debt, health and employment support..
3. Request officers to continue to work with residents on building financial resilience, giving advice and signposting to community food organisations when appropriate.

4. Request members take note of the Crisis & Resilience Fund report which sets out how the council is working to increase resilience for residents in poverty, working with community food organisations and the Community & Voluntary Sector to ensure those in food crisis receive immediate support alongside advice to prevent future crisis.

