

NOTICE OF MOTION**GREEN GROUP****HOUSING BENEFIT**

This council recalls the period in the 1990s when Housing Benefit changes led to a crisis in rough sleeping and homelessness.

It acknowledges the excellent work of the city housing team, Brighton Housing Trust, the Sussex Central YMCA, CRI and others who have dramatically reduced the problems.

However, it fears the Coalition Government's recent proposals to cut Housing Benefit and the Job Seeker's Allowance could result in a return to the homelessness and rough sleeping levels of the 1990s, with younger single people and families with children particularly affected.

The changes could have a profound effect on Brighton and Hove, a city with double (24 per cent) the national average of private rented housing and a critical shortage of social housing.

This council therefore requests the Chief Executive to write to:

1. the Coalition Government asking the government to withdraw the proposals affecting Housing Benefit and Job Seeker's Allowance and to consult with the Local Government Association, the National Housing Federation, private landlords' organisations, the CAB and other advice agencies to find a way forward; and
2. the city's three MPs asking them to support the council's request by making a direct approach to Ministers.

Proposed by: Cllr Bill Randall

Seconded by: Cllr Georgia Wrighton

Supported by: Cllrs Ian Davey, Ben Duncan, Rachel Fryer, Amy Kennedy, Jason Kitcat, Alex Phillips, Sven Rufus, Paul Steedman, Vicky Wakefield-Jarrett and Pete West

