Council	Agenda Item 40(c)
21 October 2010	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP

SUPPORT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD-BASED POLICING IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE

"The Neighbourhood-based policing model adopted in Brighton and Hove has been successful in reducing the fear of crime, actual crime – and improving public confidence in the police and residents' belief that they live in safer communities.

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) have played a key role in the delivery of Neighbourhood Policing in the city, by attending Local Action Team and other community group meetings, listening to communities and setting local priorities for policing in line with residents' wishes, and holding regular 'street briefings'.

Their regular patrols are welcomed and appreciated by neighbourhoods across the city, and they have built excellent relationships with all sectors and all ages in the community.

PCSOs do not have the power of arrest, as they are not 'warranted officers' – and this has been key to their success in many ways – not least as they have been able to develop relationships based on trust and confidence rather than power and hierarchies in the communities they serve.

Yet all this is under threat. As a result of successive cuts, by this Government and the last, to Sussex Police's budget, the Chief Constable of Sussex Police has warned that more that 1,000 people currently employed by Sussex Police are set to lose their jobs.

This council expresses its support for the Neighbourhood Policing model so successfully used here in Brighton and Hove in recent years, and its support for the valuable work of our PCSOs.

Accordingly, it:

(i) Requests the Chief Executive to write to the city's MPs, and the Home Secretary, asking them to reconsider any cuts to Sussex Police budgets;

(ii) Urges Sussex Police Authority to ensure that Neighbourhood Policing remains at the heart of the way policing is delivered in Brighton and Hove, and that numbers of PCSOs serving the city are maintained at current levels in the 2011/12 budget;

(iii) Requests officers to consider ways this council could directly fund PCSOs in the city, either through direct sponsorship or through the BID system; and

(iv) Welcomes Sussex Police's commitment to ensure that the proposed cuts in staff are assessed for their impact on equalities as a way of maintaining community support for the way policing is delivered in the city."

Proposed by: Cllr Ben Duncan Seconded by: Cllr Bill Randall

Supported by: Cllrs Kitcat, Wrighton, Rufus, Wakefield-Jarrett, Steedman, Fryer, Kennedy, Philips, Davey, West and Deane