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

NOTICE OF MOTION

CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

MAINTAIN THE BRIGHTON & HOVE CONNEXIONS SERVICE

Insert new paragraphs 4 and 5 as shown in bold italics and delete text as struck through and replace with new text as shown in bold italics:

"This council recognises and values the work of the Brighton and Hove Connexions Service that provides high quality, impartial guidance to 13 – 19yr old young people relating to personal development, training and careers and seeks to ensure that young people make a smooth transition to adulthood and working life. It also recognises the specialist work undertaken with young people who have special educational needs.

This council acknowledges that the work of the Connexions Personal Advisors has ~~directly~~ ***helped to*** contribute~~d~~ to the reduction in entrants to the Youth Justice System and numbers of teenage pregnancies in the city, where the council's own performance indicators demonstrate falling numbers.

In addition, there have been early signs of a welcome reduction in the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training. (NEET).

However, this Council recognises that Information, Advice and Guidance services for young people are unlikely to continue in their current form in the future. It notes, for example, research carried out for the cross-party Local Government Association which found that only a fifth of children find formal careers services helpful and that resources could be targeted much more effectively on disadvantaged and vulnerable young people.

It also notes the findings of the report on social mobility – 'Unleashing Aspirations' - commissioned by the previous Government, which recommended the Connexions service be split up because it wasn't targeting help effectively to those who most needed it.

~~Therefore, this council expresses its great concern at the total reduction of £700,000 funding to the Connexions budget that has put the jobs of up to 40 Connexions workers at risk as well as significantly reducing the service to young people and jeopardising the progress made.~~

~~It~~ ***This Council*** calls on the Cabinet to continue ***to work closely with all stakeholders to ensure that the £1.5 million still in the Connexions budget for 2010/11 is used to produce the best outcomes for children and young people in***

the City and to carry ~~the Brighton & Hove Connexions Service while urgently carrying~~ out the following work:

- To properly examine the government proposals for the future of careers guidance and support contained within the Education Bill, due to be published in Autumn 2010.

- To ~~fully~~ ***continue to*** consult with schools as to their capacity and willingness to take on this work and the implications for the transfer of statutory responsibilities.

- To carry out an Equality Impact Assessment to show how the impact of ~~closing~~ ***reducing funding*** for the Connexions service will affect service users, particularly those with SEN.

- To take into account the implications of the Government spending review.

- ***Once the Coalition Government's legislative intentions are clear, t***o bring forward a report to Cabinet that sets out how a personal development, careers advice and training guidance service will be maintained in the city and supported so that young people can be best helped to make decisions affecting their future."

Proposed by: Cllr Vanessa Brown Seconded by: Cllr Mary Mears