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

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT

MAINTAIN THE BRIGHTON & HOVE CONNEXIONS SERVICE

Insert text as shown in bold italics and an additional final bullet point 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. ***Connexions also caters for young people up to the age of 24 with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.***

This council acknowledges that the work of the Connexions Personal Advisors has directly contributed 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*).* ***Arguably this is absolutely imperative now that unemployment amongst young people is so high and is set to increase as government cuts set in.***

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 calls on the Cabinet to continue 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 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 the Connexions service will affect service users, particularly those with SEN ***(Special Educational Needs)****.*

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

- To 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 ***all*** young people can be best helped to make decisions affecting their future.

- ***To ensure that the lack of communication and consultation undertaken by the Council in this instance with Connexions is never repeated"***

Proposed by: Cllr Rachel Fryer Seconded by: Cllr Alex Phillips