

Council	Agenda Item 94(d)
24 March 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

LABOUR GROUP

THE IMPACT OF POLICE CUTS IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

“This council wishes to acknowledge its good working relationship with Sussex Police at both a central command and neighbourhood policing level.

However, it expresses concern at the government’s policy of making deep and front-loaded cuts to our local police services.

The Sussex Police Authority has been placed in an impossible position in having to reduce the number of police officers and staff, both of whom play a vital role in protecting local residents from crime and work hard to make Brighton & Hove a safer city.

This council has huge reservations over the impact these cuts will have locally, with Sussex Police facing cuts of £28.6m in real terms over the next two years, as well as last year announcing cuts to 1,050 Police officer posts over the next five years.

Over the four years of the Government’s Spending Review, police forces will see their funding cut by around 20 per cent in real terms. Sussex Police will lose 550 police staff as a result of this.

Meanwhile, the Government is spending over £100m on replacing police authorities with 42 directly elected police commissioners, an unwanted and currently unnecessary organisational upheaval, which goes against a 150-year tradition of keeping politics out of day to day policing.

People will be justifiably angry that, at the same time as cutting funding for frontline police, the government wants to spend the equivalent of 600 full time police officers on bringing in directly elected police commissioners.

This council therefore expresses concern at the following;

- That the future of Hove Police Station is under threat with no confirmed alternative proposals for a publicly accessible front desk service.
- That the station’s viability was placed in doubt following the departure of the Road Policing Unit, due to budget cuts.
- That there will be no police station in Sussex open after midnight and that it is proposed that the John Street Police Station in Brighton closes its doors between midnight and 8am.

This council also;

- Believes strongly, that the residents of Brighton, Hove and Portslade need a local Police Station, with full policing capabilities and an accessible, public front desk;
- Notes that when the previous government left office, there were record numbers of Police on the street, nearly 17,000 more than in 1997, in addition to 16,000 new PCSOs. Accordingly, crime fell by 43% and the chance of being a victim of crime was at a thirty year low;
- Notes that the number of young people first time entrants to the criminal justice system and ending up in custody had fallen by 25% by 2010.

This council therefore;

Requests that the council's Chief Executive writes to the Home Secretary, The Rt. Hon Theresa May MP to express this council's concerns as set out in this motion with a copy also sent to the Shadow Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper MP and the city's three local MPs."

Proposed by: Cllr Warren Morgan

Seconded by: Cllr Bob Carden

Supported by: Cllrs McCaffery, Hawkes, Simpson, Mitchell, Turton, Lepper, Davis, Allen, Hamilton and Marsh.