

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

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP

EDUCATIONAL REFORMS AND THEIR EFFECT ON THE CITY

“This council acknowledges that the above average proportion of highly educated residents is one of the main reasons for the success of Brighton and Hove’s diverse and resilient economy^[1].

Therefore, it notes with concern proposals for wholesale cuts to educational funding in the city, which will see further increases in the university tuition fees introduced by the previous government and cuts to the Education Maintenance Allowance that will seriously affect the education chances of more than 2,600 young people from low-income families in Brighton and Hove⁽²⁾.

It recognises these cuts will:

- Have a serious impact on the local economy by seriously reducing the number of jobs at the city’s universities and further education colleges
- Reduce the number of well-educated people entering the city’s work-force
- Increase the 8.2 per cent of the working population in the city who have no qualifications at all⁽³⁾
- Reinforce social inequality by increasing the gap between rich and poor.

This Council therefore:

Requests that the Chief Executive writes to the government urging it to introduce a business education tax levied on the top 4 per cent of UK companies, which would generate enough income annually to abolish all tuition fees, maintain the EMA and bring our public investment in higher education up to the average in other comparable countries.”

Proposed by: Cllr Rachel Fryer

Seconded by: Cllr Bill Randall

Supported by: Cllrs Kennedy, Davey, Kitcat, Deane, West, Rufus, Duncan, Wrighton, Phillips, Wakefield-Jarrett and Steedman.

[1] According to 2008 figures, 40.25 per cent hold a degree or equivalent qualification, and the city’s skills base places us in the top 20 per cent of districts across the country (Brighton and Hove Local Intelligence Service)

(2) Young People’s Learning Agency report on EMA take-up in Brighton and Hove, 2004/05 to 2009/101

(3) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Brighton and Hove City Council, 2010

