

**Councillor Warren Morgan**

Brighton & Hove City Council  
King's House  
Grand Avenue  
Hove BN3 2LS

**Date:** 5 August 2011

**Our Ref:** WM/

**Your Ref:**

Dear Councillor Kennedy

A recent survey by the Higher Education Funding Council for England suggests that many universities expect to see a drop in students from the UK and EU from next year following the rise in tuition fees. Its analysis shows 56 universities are anticipating a drop in the number of full-time undergraduates they take from the UK or the European Union next year. On average, universities expect a 2% fall, but one institution predicts a 20% drop and five others foresee decreases of more than 10%. Just under a quarter – 24% – expect an increase and a fifth anticipate no change.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/aug/04/fewer-students-expected>

<http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/the-staggers/2011/08/universities-expect-fees>

I am concerned about the potential impact on the city's economy of a fall in student numbers, and the potential impact on planned investment in purpose-built student accommodation.

I would like to ask the Cabinet Member for PEER to request a report to a future CMM regarding the council's strategy with regard to building student accommodation in the city, and whether the city's two universities have factored in the rise in fees with regard to the viability of large scale student developments. The report should also include information on the flexibility of potential developments; namely whether accommodation planned for students could be used for other sectors such as key workers, those in non-secure accommodation, or be offered as social housing.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Warren Morgan  
Labour & Co-operative Member for East Brighton Ward

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