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| Council | Agenda Item 34(e) |
| 20 October 2011 | Brighton & Hove City Council |

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP

PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS

“This council notes the Coalition Government's attack on public services pensions in general and local government pensions in particular. It further notes Ministers' proposals to increase member contributions in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

Despite reassurances in consultation papers recently released by the Department for Communities and Local Government, there is great concern at members being forced to pay more so soon after re-negotiating terms.

At the same time, the Government's earlier decision to link pension increases to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rather than the Retail Price Index (RPI) will result in LGPS members losing up to 25 per cent in the value of their pensions during the next 25 years.

This council believes the effect of these proposals will lead to many local government workers leaving the LGPS because they will find it unaffordable. This will affect the long term viability of LGPS and lead to its possible collapse. Research by the GMB shows that 25 per cent of council workers opt out of the LGPS for affordability reasons and in some local authorities this figure is as high as 50 per cent.

Further research shows that these government proposals, which are a Treasury tax on pension savings, could lead to 50 per cent or more of LPGS members opting out. This will lead to more low paid public service workers swelling the ranks of the 1 in 6 UK pensioners who, according to Age Concern, already live in retirement poverty. An increase in the state benefit bill will inevitably follow.

This council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Support the trade unions and others in their campaign to protect local government pensions and to provide all pensioners with a Living Pension; and
- (2) Ask the city's three MPs and the City Council's Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne and Communities Secretary Eric Pickles urging them to:
 - End their attack on public service pensions by scrapping their plans to increase contributions and by retaining the link between pension increases and RPI;

- Increase all state pensions above the official poverty level of £178 a week in line with the recommendations of the National Pensioners Convention.”

Proposed by: Cllr Phelim MacCafferty

Seconded by: Cllr Ruth Buckley

Supported by: Cllrs Kennedy, Davey, Randall, Bowden, Deane, Duncan, Follett, Hawtree, Jarrett, Jones, A Kitcat, J Kitcat, Littman, Wakefield, Phillips, Powell, Rufus, Shanks, Summers, Sykes and West.