

<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 65(c)</b>
26 January 2012	Brighton & Hove City Council

## **NOTICE OF MOTION**

### **CONSERVATIVE GROUP**

#### **PROTECT BBC LOCAL RADIO SERVICES**

“This Council notes with concern the proposals contained within the BBC Trust Service Review of Local Radio. If implemented, the plans would reduce the budget for the BBC's 40 local stations in England, including BBC Sussex, by 19%, or £15m, with the loss of 280 jobs, or up to 20% of staff at individual stations. This will result in a reduction in local output of 22%, including the replacement of local afternoon and evening shows with standardised national content, the switching off of Medium Wave and less local sports and music coverage.

This Council applauds the efforts of the BBC, as a publicly-funded organisation, to make efficiency savings along with the rest of the public sector at a time of economic turbulence. However, this Council believes that such savings should not prevent the BBC from fulfilling its public service remit and urges them to find the money from elsewhere in the organisation, rather than from local radio, which many people, including the elderly and vulnerable, rely upon for information, advice and comfort.

This Council further notes the concern expressed by the Local Government Association about the detrimental impact the BBC's proposals could have on the ability of local authorities to manage in emergencies. In times of crisis such as flooding, severe weather or other major emergencies, councils, the police and fire authorities often rely on local radio to keep residents informed and issue safety advice.

The proposals for local radio come hot on the heels of the regionalisation of local television news coverage and the transfer of part of the operations of the city's only printed daily newspaper – the Argus – to Southampton.

Therefore, this Council resolves to write to the city's 3 MPs, outlining the concerns expressed in this motion and requesting that they make representations to Lord Patten – Chairman of the BBC Trust - to safeguard local radio and, above all, to keep it genuinely local.”

Proposed by: Cllr Geoffrey Theobald

Seconded by: Cllr Garry Peltzer Dunn

Supported by: Cllrs Cobb, Brown, Wealls, Janio, A. Norman, Hyde, Barnett, Bennett, C. Theobald, Pidgeon, Mears, Simson, Smith, Cox, K. Norman and Wells.

