

Council	Agenda Item 65(e)
26 January 2012	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT

ULTRA-FAST BROADBAND FOR OUR CITY

Delete the wording in the fourth and fifth paragraphs as struck through and in the recommendations 1 and 2 below and replace text with that wording as shown in bold italics below:

“Ultra-fast broadband is key to enabling the development of new services and innovative new businesses. Countries and areas with fast, affordable Internet connections have a clear record of strong economic development including South Korea, Finland and Silicon Valley. Ultra-fast broadband is defined as connections having download speeds of at least 80 megabits per second.

Brighton & Hove is a hub of start-up and established new media businesses covering numerous burgeoning sectors such as video games, mobile apps, web development, online media, social media and many more. Our city has the highest level of digital business per head of population; the sector is growing here three times faster than the national average and creating the majority of new local jobs. More than ever given the difficult economic times it is critical that we support and nurture this sector to support economic development and good local jobs for our residents.

This Council notes the government's proposals for a fund to support the roll-out of ultra-fast broadband into a network of super-connected UK cities, each with more than 150,000 homes, a plan which does not include our city.

This Council agrees that as Brighton & Hove is a unique new media hub with ~~125,000 homes it should be justifiably~~ **it should have been** included in the list of eligible cities for the government's broadband funding. ***The Council notes recent comments by Jeremy Hunt MP refusing our city's inclusion in the super-connected cities fund, but agreeing to support other avenues for achieving ultra-fast broadband for our city.***

~~This Council notes the urgency of this issue as the closing date for bids is 13th February 2011.~~

Hence ~~and~~ this Council agrees to:

- 1) ~~Support the campaign by~~ **Thank** the city's local MP's **and business groups for their campaign** to "Let Brighton Bid";
- 2) Ask the Chief Executive to write to the minister responsible, seeking ~~our city's inclusion on the list of cities eligible~~ **support** for ultra-fast broadband funding **in our city**;

- 3) Ask the city's Members of Parliament to continue urgently lobbying Ministers on this issue.

Proposed by: Cllr Jason Kitcat

Seconded by: Cllr Phelim MacCafferty

Supported by all Green Group members