

CABINET**Agenda Item 187(a)**

9 February 2012

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Accept the Council Tax Freeze Grant – Extract from the Council Meeting held on the 26th January 2012		
Date of Meeting:	9 February 2012		
Report of:	Strategic Director: Resources		
Cabinet Member Responsible:	Councillor J. Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Wall	Tel: 29-1006
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Wards Affected:	All		

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

4.30pm 26th January 2012
COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Councillors: Meadows (Chair); Wells (Deputy Chair), Barnett, Bennett, Bowden, Brown, Buckley, Carden, Cox, Davey, Deane, Duncan, Farrow, Fitch, Follett, Gilbey, Hamilton, Hawtree, Janio, Jarrett, Jones, Kennedy, J Kitcat, Lepper, Littman, MacCafferty, Marsh, Mears, Mitchell, Morgan, A. Norman, K. Norman, Peltzer Dunn, Phillips, Pidgeon, Pissaridou, Powell, Randall, Robins, Rufus, Shanks, Simson, Smith, Summers, Sykes, C Theobald, G Theobald, Turton, Wakefield, Wealls and West.

PART ONE**65(A). ACCEPT THE COUNCIL TAX FRFREEZE GRANT**

- 65.1 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor A. Norman on behalf of the Conservative Group and seconded by Councillor G. Theobald.
- 65.2 Councillor Hamilton moved an amendment on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group which was seconded by Councillor Mitchell.
- 65.3 The Mayor noted that the amendment moved by Councillor Hamilton had not been accepted by Councillor A. Norman and therefore put the proposed amendment to vote which was lost.
- 65.4 The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

“This Council warmly welcomes the offer of Government grant funding worth £3 million that would enable a council tax freeze for Brighton & Hove’s residents in 2012/13. It,

therefore, profoundly regrets the Green Administration's stated intention to turn down this money and instead increase council tax by 3.5% for each of the next 3 years.

The Administration's refusal to accept the £3 million flies in the face of public opinion. Currently, over 7,000 residents have taken part in the Argus referendum on the subject and 70% have indicated that they would like a council tax freeze. The Argus' public-spirited campaign to consult as widely as possible with the residents of Brighton & Hove contrasts sharply with the Administration's consultation exercise which involved only forty eight residents, whilst incurring a cost of almost £10,000.

Therefore, without prejudice to the final decision being taken at the Budget Council meeting, this Council urges the Administration to produce a Budget for the whole city which will take advantage of the £3 million Government grant and deliver a much-needed council tax freeze to the hard-pressed residents of Brighton & Hove in these tough economic times."

65.5 **The motion was carried.**