

Council	Agenda Item 20(f)
19 July 2012	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP

CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF WELFARE REFORMS

“This council notes with deep concern the cumulative impact of the Government’s welfare reforms upon the residents of Brighton & Hove. This council acknowledges there is a genuine need to rationalise and simplify the existing welfare state. However this council believes that the Government are using the rubric of 'Welfare Reform' to mask a series of cuts to those in undisputed need, as well as to already squeezed council budgets.

For example the Government has chosen to cut funding for council tax support which is likely to affect some 17,000 of the lowest-income households in the city. In addition to this, the Government has confirmed that their proposed cap on welfare support will hurt at least 400 households in Brighton and Hove.

Meanwhile rather than improving the supply and quality of affordable housing, the Government is pulling the rug out from beneath the many pensioners, people with disabilities and hardworking people on low incomes who rely on housing benefit. Further, this council deplores the Prime Minister’s suggestion that young people should see their housing benefit withdrawn altogether.

This council feels that the slashing benefits to meet arbitrary targets rather than considering genuine need is having a devastating effect on the most vulnerable in this city.

Therefore this council urges the Government to reconsider their plans for welfare reform and stop penalising those who are unfortunate enough to be unwell or unable to find work.”

Proposed by: Cllr Wakefield

Seconded by: Cllr Duncan

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

