

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

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP

AIR QUALITY

“This council notes with concern that street level air quality (AQ) in many parts of central Brighton and Hove has not improved significantly since records started in 1996 and that this has adverse implications for the health of residents of our city as well as being detrimental to the experience of visitors. Nitrogen Dioxide in particular is persistently at levels above those considered safe for health in a number of areas, and above those prescribed by EU Directives.

This council notes the report of the Environmental Audit Committee published 26th October 2011 stating that evidence for the damage caused by air pollution has grown stronger and that air pollution is the second biggest public health risk in the UK after smoking. It is recognised that young children, the older people and those with existing respiratory illness suffer most from the effects of air pollution.

Furthermore this council notes the recent European Commission (EC) announcement rejecting a request by the UK Government to extend to 2015 the deadline by which Zone 10 (Brighton, Worthing, Littlehampton) needs to improve its NOx levels to meet those specified by the EC, indicating instead that compliance in Zone 10 should be achieved by 1st January 2013. Failure to meet this AQ target could result in heavy EC fines being levied on the UK Government and potentially, by dint of the Localism Act, being handed down to BHCC.

Consequently this council:

- Reaffirms its commitment to reducing traffic-related air pollution, particularly in the worst affected areas;
- Requests the Chief Executive to ask the City’s three MPs to write to the Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs requesting that she work in partnership with us and other Local Authorities to address the root causes of air pollution, providing any necessary technical and financial support alongside whatever additional traffic management powers that may be necessary.”

Proposed by: Cllr Sykes

Seconded by: Cllr Summer

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

