

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

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT

SUPPORTING BRIGHTON & HOVE'S BOWLS CLUBS

To insert a new paragraph 2, additional wording in paragraphs 3 and 4 as shown in bold italics and the deletion of the wording as struck through.

“This Council recognises that the sport of bowls is enjoyed by many residents of Brighton & Hove, particularly older residents for whom it is an important way of keeping physically and mentally fit and of maintaining social interaction in later life.

This council also notes the above-average cut in government funding to this council, and the government's proposals for continued reductions in funding to councils until at least 2015. Therefore this council feels that it may be in the best interest for bowls clubs to seek a more sustainable future away from this government's austerity drive.

Therefore, this Council notes ~~with concern proposals by the Administration~~ ***proposals set out at Budget Council in February*** to reduce the budget for ***current £160,000 subsidy towards*** the maintenance of bowling greens and other costs associated with running the city's 14 bowls clubs by 60%, or £94,000, in 2013/14. A reduction in funding on this scale will make it ~~virtually impossible for many clubs to survive~~ ***difficult for some clubs to continue on their current basis***. Furthermore, putting up membership fees to cover the increased costs would simply make bowls unaffordable for many older residents who are already struggling financially due to, amongst other things, the prolonged low interest rates on savings.

Therefore, this Council ~~urges the appropriate Committee to~~ ***supports the ongoing work to:***

- (i) ~~Withdraw its proposals for drastic across the board cuts in support for the city's bowling clubs;~~
- (ii) Seek a compromise solution that enables all clubs that wish to do so to continue operating, whilst exploring ways in which they can become more autonomous and less reliant on Council funding in the future;

And

- (iii) Requests officers to bring forward a report to the Economic Development & Culture / Policy & Resources Committee(s) later in the year with concrete proposals about how this can be achieved.”

Proposed by: Cllr West

Seconded by: Cllr Phillips

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