

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

NOTICE OF MOTION

CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

ASSET REVIEW AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

To delete the wording in paragraph 2 and bullet points 1 and 2 as struck through and insert the wording as shown in bold italics in paragraphs 2, and 3 and bullet points 1 and 2, and insert an additional paragraph 4:

“This council notes the ongoing difficulty in relation to funding its capital programme over the next three years and commits to taking action to increasing its available capital.

In particular it ~~also notes that £34m will be needed to complete the back log of repairs to the city’s schools and expresses deep regret that the recent bids~~ **by the city’s schools** to the Government’s Priority School Building Programme were refused.

It notes the practice of other councils such as LB Camden that have launched a large-scale Community Investment Programme that will renew school buildings and homes from the disposal of unwanted council assets following widespread public consultation. **It agrees that each council will have its own specific needs and resources but that all councils should, as a matter of course, regularly review all their assets to ensure that these needs are being met and that council taxpayers’ money is being put to best use.**

Welcomes the significant capital investment in the city’s schools and council housing stock in recent years – in particular: £40 million in the city’s two Academy schools at Falmer and Portslade; funding for two new Free Schools; the new infant school at the Connaught; funding to expand 8 infant and junior schools; a £7.96 million Schools Capital allocation for 2012/13; £28 million through the housing Local Delivery Vehicle that has so far helped bring 100 properties back into use.

It supports the current ‘Workstyles’ programme that has the potential to unlock money from council assets and reduce costs.

Accordingly, this council requests that as soon as possible a report is brought to the Policy & Resources Committee setting out the following:

- ~~A comprehensive plan~~ **How to accelerate the ongoing work** to demonstrate which further suitable assets, including all or part of King’s House, could be considered for sale based on the council’s Value for Money ~~principals~~ **principles.**

- Priorities for the investment from any such sales into public and community facilities, **particularly sporting facilities which do not currently benefit a city of this size and stature.** ~~Specifically, covering the shortfall in Coalition Government funding for local school buildings in order to make them fit for a modern education.~~
- The acceleration of the council's 'Workstyles' programme whilst ensuring that decent working facilities are provided."

Proposed by: Cllr. Wealls

Seconded by: Cllr. G Theobald