

NOTICE OF MOTION**CONSERVATIVE GROUP****COUNCIL STRUCTURE AND SERVICE DELIVERY**

“This Council notes that local authorities have a statutory obligation to their residents to secure continuous improvement in the way in which their functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Therefore, this Council notes with concern the recent assessment of the Audit Commission that spending at Brighton & Hove is ‘generally in the top 10%’ of councils and that the Council’s unit costs ‘also appear high compared to other local authorities’.

This Council further notes that the ratio of managers to staff in the organisation is relatively high in comparison to the private sector and, given that staff account for over a third of the Council’s total expenditure, agrees that a review of staffing structures would be beneficial for council taxpayers.

This Council also notes that there are functions still being carried out, such as the collection of large volumes of performance data, that Communities & Local Government has recommended should stop, and that are continuing to absorb funds that could be usefully redeployed to front line services.

This Council is also greatly concerned that the current Administration has effectively abandoned any attempts to introduce and bed in a commissioning model of service delivery and continues to prioritise in-house services for political reasons without any evidence that they provide taxpayers with better value for money. This failure to take an open-minded and holistic approach to the delivery of services condemns the local authority to years of further salami-slicing of budgets with the result being an inevitable deterioration in the standard of essential frontline services.

Therefore, this Council:

- (i) Requests the Chief Executive to carry out a review of the structure of the organisation as part of the modernisation programme, with particular reference to layers of management and numbers of managers per member of staff, and to report back to Policy & Resources Committee;
- (ii) Requests the Policy & Resources Committee to consider the report and make decisions about who delivers Council services based on

objective evidence of costs and benefits to residents rather than on political dogma.

Proposed by: Cllr Janio

Seconded by: Cllr Cox

Supported by: Cllrs G. Theobald, Peltzer Dunn, Cobb, A Norman, K Norman, C Theobald, Brown, Simson, Mears, Hyde, Smith, Wealls, Barnett, Wells, Pidgeon and Bennett.