

**NOTICE OF MOTION****LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP****BEDROOM TAX**

“This council notes that the government will implement the ‘Bedroom Tax’ element of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 on the 1st of April 2013.

This council further notes:

- That the Bedroom Tax will place an intolerable financial burden on over 1,000 households across Brighton and Hove, many of whom include working or disabled occupants and children living in poverty.
- The Government’s rationale is for tenants who are under-occupying to downsize to alternate properties. However, there is not sufficient housing in Brighton and Hove to facilitate this.
- The provisions of the ‘Bedroom Tax’ are inconsistent and fail to consider the additional needs of many households with regards to disabilities; adaption’s made to homes, foster carers, and parents who share custody of their children.

This Council therefore resolves:

- 1) To urge the Secretary of State to amend the Welfare Reform Act 2012 in order to repeal changes to Housing Benefit, commonly known as ‘Bedroom Tax’.
- 2) To continue to support council tenants that may be adversely affected by the ‘Bedroom Tax’ by means that are legal, financially sustainable and fair.
- 3) To request that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State asking him to rethink his plans which would adversely affect 660,000 tenants nationally including over 1,000 of the poorest and most vulnerable in Brighton and Hove, and in the light of his recent U-Turn on those with a disability being excluded, speedily clarify this category of person in order to stop further anxiety and apprehension that this policy is causing.”

Proposed by: Cllr Wilson

Seconded by: Cllr Morgan

Supported by: Cllrs Mitchell, Fitch, Hamilton, Carden, Marsh, Pissaridou, Gilbey, Meadows, Lepper, Robins and Farrow.

