

NOTICE OF MOTION**LABOUR AND CO-OPERATIVE GROUP****LOCAL WELFARE ASSISTANCE FUND**

“This Council is deeply concerned by the Government’s decision to scrap the Local Welfare Assistance Fund from April 2015 without any evaluation of the effectiveness of the fund; a move which has been condemned by the cross-party Local Government Association.

This Council supports those authorities, including neighbouring West Sussex and East Sussex County Councils, who have been lobbying for the fund to continue and requests that the Chief Executive write to Eric Pickles at DCLG seeking an assurance for the continuation of the fund in 2015/16 and for the Department to work with the Local Government Association and local authorities to review the future operation of the fund in subsequent years.”

Proposed by: Cllr Daniel

Seconded by Cllr Wilson

Supported by: Councillors Morgan, Mitchell, Lepper, Hamilton, Farrow, Marsh, Meadows, Robins, Pissaridou, Gilbey and Robins.

Supporting Information:

- Brighton and Hove City Council’s Local Welfare Assistance Fund is operates under the name ‘Local Discretionary Social Fund.’
- The 2014 Local Government Finance Settlement confirmed the abolition of the Local Welfare Assistance Fund from 2015 - http://www.local.gov.uk/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10180/5954063/NEWS
- The then chair of the Local Government Association, Sir Merrick Cockell, condemned the move stating ‘*This fund has been used by councils to provide crucial support to people facing personal crises in their lives, from help paying the rent to putting food on the table. By helping people at an early stage and targeting support at where it is needed most, we have been able to give essential support in people’s time of need and prevent short-term problems escalating.*’