

Council	Agenda Item 15(b)
21 July 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT

RETURNING TO A COMMITTEE SYSTEM IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

To add a new third paragraph as shown in bold italics, delete part (a) of the second bullet point as struck through and add a new third bullet point as shown in bold italics below:

“This Council notes that Schedule 2 of the Localism Bill currently going through Parliament gives provision for local authorities to return to operating a committee system of governance should they wish to do so.

Prior to its implementation in 2008, all political groups on Brighton & Hove City Council were opposed to the Executive Leader and Cabinet system, and reaffirmed unanimously their desire to return to a committee system at Full Council on 15th July 2010.

This Council notes that both the Conservative and Labour Groups voted in 2008 to introduce the Leader and Cabinet system a year earlier than required by legislation.

This Council further notes that although, as it currently stands, new governance arrangements could only come into force immediately after the next election of the local authority – May 2015 in the case of Brighton & Hove – there is flexibility written into the Localism Bill. Clause 13 permits the Secretary of State to make an order setting out transitional arrangements and, in addition, s105 of the Local Government Act 2000 allows for secondary legislation specific to individual or groups of local authorities.

Therefore, this Council:

- Reaffirms its desire to return to a committee system of governance at the earliest possible opportunity;
- Asks the Chief Executive to write to:
 - (a) ~~The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government requesting the necessary amendments to the Bill and/or other measures, so as to enable Brighton & Hove City Council to return to a committee system without delay and;~~
 - (b) The City’s 3 MPs advising them of the Council’s wishes and requesting that they add their support through appropriate lobbying of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.”

- ***Asks the Governance Committee to keep a watching brief on the Localism Bill. Once the bill has received Royal Assent, the date it will come in force is known and the guidance notes are published; the Governance Committee is asked to prepare a process for:***
 - (i) Identifying international best practice so that a shortlist of preferred models for local government democratic decision-making can be identified; and***
 - (ii) Involving all Members, political parties and citizens in coming to a final decision on the preferred model for this Council and method for its adoption.***

Proposed by: Cllr Jason Kitcat

Seconded by: Cllr Matt Follett