

NOTICE OF MOTION**MAINTAIN THE BRIGHTON & HOVE SCHOOLS SPORTS PARTNERSHIP
“SPORT FOR ALL”**

“This council notes with concern the attempts by the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, to abolish the 450 School Sports Partnerships in the country that include the Brighton & Hove Schools Sports Partnership based at Dorothy Stringer School that now stands to lose its previous funding of £320,000 per annum to run the Partnership.

The council further notes that government funding for school sports has been reduced with short-term funding from the Department for Education ending between 2011 – 2013.

The council reaffirms its support for the work of the Partnership and its Sports Co-ordinators that, through its involvement with all LEA schools, has significantly increased participation in sport, dance and healthy activities with thousands of Brighton and Hove young people taking part in activities provided by the additional 64 sporting clubs organised by the Partnership.

It particularly acknowledges and values the commitment from the 1,000 Volunteer Sports Leaders within the programme, both adults and year 10 and year 11 students.

It notes the comments of local Headteachers who have praised the work of the Partnership for its sharing of expertise and advice and who have seen how regular sporting activity has helped to raise educational attainment in their schools.

The council recognises that regular participation in enjoyable, varied sporting activity can improve the health and well being of young people and provide a positive outlet for competitive physical exercise and behaviour.

It acknowledges the success of this year’s School Sports Festival that involved 19,000 of the city’s young people.

Within the reduced funding regime this council requests the Cabinet to commit to:

1. Taking the lead, along with organisations such as Brighton & Hove Albion FC, Sussex Cricket Club, South East Dance and local gymnastic clubs, to ensure that access to the variety of sporting and other activities currently on offer to the city’s young people does not diminish and that where possible budgets, premises, transport and expertise can be shared; and
2. Working quickly and pro-actively with all its schools, including Primary Schools, and local sports leaders, with the aim of maintaining a Brighton & Hove Schools Sports Partnership based on the ethos of ‘Sport for All’.

The Council further requests the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education highlighting the success of the Brighton and Hove School Sports Partnership and asking that he reconsiders his decision to reduce its funding.”