Council	Agenda Item 59(5)
14 December 20017	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

CONSERVATIVE GROUP

ABLE AND WILLING

This council resolves:

(1) That the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee be requested to call for a report on how best to promote, sustain and increase procurement from, Able and Willing.

(2) To request that the Procurement Advisory Board provide advice and guidance on how the Council can designate Able and Willing as the preferred supplier where they can provide the goods and/or services the Council needs.

Proposed by: Cllr Mears   Seconded by: Cllr Wealls

Supporting Information:

Able & Willing is a supported employer, sponsored by the council. Able and Willing supports people with all sorts of disabilities. Without Council support, some of their hardworking staff would never experience the dignity of work that many take for granted. Their aim is to help staff move forward towards mainstream employment.

Able and Willing employ people with learning disabilities, giving some of the most vulnerable people in our City a place in a working environment.

This also allows their families to have much deserved respite for a few hours. Without this excellent service being sustained the pressure on Adult Social Care budgets in the future will prove catastrophic. Without this Motion our city could lose a very valuable service, hurting those that need our support most.

Able and Willing is well supported by businesses in the private sector, proving that they provide high quality products and services in a timely manner. CityClean already procure from Able and Willing, as do the GMB, who have been supportive of the concept of Able and Willing from its outset.

Office for National Statistics figures from June 2017 suggested that disabled people were twice as likely to be unemployed as non-disabled people. Prime Minister Theresa May said a person's life and career "should not be dictated by their disability or health condition". Plans to get one million more disabled people in work over the next 10 years have been set out by the government.