

NOTICE OF MOTION**CONSERVATIVE GROUP****ENERGY CRUNCH**

“This Council notes with grave concern the Government’s predictions in the “UK Low Carbon Transition Plan” that they are expecting power cuts equivalent to three thousand megawatt hours a year by 2017. This is equivalent to a million people seeing the lights go out for 15 minutes at peak time on twenty-four winter evenings a year by 2017. This will have a serious and detrimental impact on both residents and businesses in Brighton & Hove.

Furthermore, this Council notes that North Sea gas supply peaked in 1999, since when the flow has fallen by half and by 2015 it will have dropped by two-thirds. By 2015 four of Britain’s ten nuclear power stations will have shut and no new ones are likely to be ready for years after that. Of a total UK generating capacity of around 75 Gigawatts, estimates suggest that between 20 and 32 Gigawatts will disappear by 2015.

This Council regrets the lack of foresight and planning by the Government in addressing these putative shortfalls. For the last decade it has been known that:

- UK nuclear plants were reaching the end of their planned life
- The most polluting coal-fired power stations would need to be closed
- We continue to lag well behind most of our European neighbours in exploiting renewable resources.

Therefore, this Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change asking him what steps are being taken to address this vital issue for the residents of Brighton & Hove and the rest of the UK.”

Proposed by: Councillor Brian Oxley

Seconded by: Councillor Ayas Fallon-Khan

