

Council

Date of meeting 15th December 2022

LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT

COST OF LIVING – BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES

That the relevant changes are made to the recommendations as shown below in strikethrough and ***bold italics***:

This council notes:

1. Rising costs and inflation have negatively impacted businesses, third sector organisations, and the public sector in the city [1][2] ***and that in October, Council agreed to declare a cost-of-living emergency and hold a cost-of-living emergency summit***
2. That after Brexit and the continuing covid-19 pandemic, the costs and challenges of running businesses and organisations in the city are even greater, particularly due to labour shortages [3]
3. Small businesses are more likely to be harder hit by these difficulties and need more support, ***and that many may not be aware of the limited support that is available to them***

And further recognises:

4. Recent lobbying letters agreed at the Policy & Resources Committee in October which outlines the need for support for SMEs in Brighton & Hove from Government including calling for the reduction of tourism VAT to 5% and dedicated businesses grant support
5. The local #GiveltBack campaign which marks an act of solidarity, for the first time in the city, demanding a reversal of cuts to local services and local government worker pay. [4]

Therefore, the Council resolves to:

6. Recognise and thank small businesses in Brighton & Hove for the positive impact they have despite challenging circumstances, ***and to consider increased communications with them on the support they can seek (including grants, business rates relief, information and advice on energy bills and limited government support such as the Covid Recovery Loan Scheme), for example, with signposting on the council website, social media channels and direct communications with businesses***
7. Reaffirm the Council commitment to work closely with businesses directly, alongside the Chamber of Commerce and other business networking organisations and Community Works, to identify any issues businesses and organisations are facing

8. Support the Local Government Association 'Save our Services' campaign to push the Government to secure adequate funding for local authorities in line with inflation-
9. ***Include consideration of funding within the budget-setting process for 2023-24 to make support for small businesses a priority***

Proposed by: Cllr Evans

Seconded by: Cllr Robins

Motion to read if carried:

This council notes:

1. Rising costs and inflation have negatively impacted businesses, third sector organisations, and the public sector in the city [1][2] and that in October, Council agreed to declare a cost-of-living emergency and hold a cost-of-living emergency summit
2. That after Brexit and the continuing covid-19 pandemic, the costs and challenges of running businesses and organisations in the city are even greater, particularly due to labour shortages [3]
3. Small businesses are more likely to be harder hit by these difficulties and need more support, and that many may not be aware of the limited support that is available to them

And further recognises:

4. Recent lobbying letters agreed at the Policy & Resources Committee in October which outlines the need for support for SMEs in Brighton & Hove from Government including calling for the reduction of tourism VAT to 5% and dedicated businesses grant support
5. The local #GiveItBack campaign which marks an act of solidarity, for the first time in the city, demanding a reversal of cuts to local services and local government worker pay. [4]

Therefore, the Council resolves to:

6. Recognise and thank small businesses in Brighton & Hove for the positive impact they have despite challenging circumstances, and better communicate with them on the support they can seek (including grants, business rates relief, information and advice on energy bills and limited government support such as the Covid Recovery Loan Scheme), with signposting on the council website, social media channels and direct communications with businesses
7. Reaffirm the Council commitment to work closely with businesses directly, alongside the Chamber of Commerce and other business networking organisations and Community Works, to identify any issues businesses and organisations are facing
8. Support the Local Government Association 'Save our Services' campaign to push the Government to secure adequate funding for local authorities in line with inflation

9. Identify funding within the budget-setting process for 2023-24 to make support for small businesses a priority

