

# Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 85

Date of meeting: 2 February 2023

## GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT

### Utilisation of empty council buildings

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

This council:

- 1) Notes that City Council buildings are now significantly underutilised;
- 2) Further notes that the cause of this is the Council's policy to move towards **more flexible working arrangements** ~~remote service provision~~ with staff working from home;

~~Recognises the unnecessary costs to the taxpayer being incurred from the City Council maintaining and heating buildings which now largely sit empty;~~

- 3) Notes that other Councils have downsized their council buildings since the pandemic; and
- 4) **Notes that progress with decanting council buildings is regularly reported to the cross-party Asset Management Board which also receives reports on any proposals to dispose of empty or underused buildings owned by the council, most recently on 1 November 2022**
- 5) **Recognises the need for an updated Asset Management Plan to be submitted to Asset Management Board to continue ensuring that council accommodation is consistent with the council's needs** ~~Calls for a report containing a cost-benefit analysis of downsizing the City Council, that includes:~~
  - a. ~~Current occupancy of Council buildings;~~
  - b. ~~Proportion of council staff working from home;~~
  - c. ~~Potential benefit to the budget from downsizing the council, including by leasing empty office space or selling unneeded premises.~~

Proposed by: Cllr Hugh-Jones

Seconded by: Cllr Gibson

**Recommendations to read if carried:**

This council:

- 1) Notes that City Council buildings are now significantly underutilised;
- 2) Further notes that the cause of this is the Council's policy to move towards more flexible working arrangements with staff working from home;
- 3) Notes that other Councils have downsized their council buildings since the pandemic;  
and
- 4) Notes that progress with decanting council buildings is regularly reported to the cross-party Asset Management Board which also receives reports on any proposals to dispose of empty or underused buildings owned by the council, most recently on 1 November 2022
- 5) Recognises the need for an updated Asset Management Plan to be submitted to Asset Management Board to continue ensuring that council accommodation is consistent with the council's needs