

**NOTICE OF MOTION****CONSERVATIVE GROUP****PERSONAL CARE AT HOME BILL**

This Council believes in the principle of helping more people with care needs to stay in their own homes where they wish to do so and, therefore, welcomes the broad intentions of the new Personal Care at Home Bill.

However, this Council has serious concerns that local authorities are being asked to fund a substantial part of the costs of implementing the new Bill. The proposed Government funding to meet the costs of the scheme is inadequate and the proposed council efficiency savings entirely unrealistic.

Further, this Council shares the concerns of the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services who suggest that the total cost of the proposal will be much higher than the Government's estimated figure of £670 million due to a significant underestimate of the number of people likely to be entitled to, and take advantage of, free care.

Locally, it has been estimated that the cost of the Bill to Brighton & Hove's council taxpayers will be between £1.3 and £1.8 million per annum.

This Council notes that the Government is committed to ensuring that any new centrally-imposed responsibilities falling on local authorities are fully funded via the 'New Burdens Doctrine'. New Burdens are defined as *'any new policy or initiative which increases the cost of providing local authority services.'*

This Council believes that without adequate funding, more pressure will be placed on services for people who have significant, but not critical, needs and that the shortfall may require either an increase in council tax or cuts to other council services. In their current form, these irresponsible proposals threaten to destabilise the Council financially, put undue and unfair strain on our staff and risk councils' ability to properly care for those that most need it.

Therefore, this Council resolves to request that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Health – Andy Burnham MP – requesting that he:

- Honours the Government's commitment in the New Burdens Doctrine by fully funding the provisions of the Personal Care at Home Bill.
- Delays implementation of any proposals until at least 1 April 2011 to enable a more accurate and realistic assessment of the costs of the scheme to be undertaken and to allow social care staff more time to get to grips with the proposed new assessment procedures.

**Proposed by: Cllr. Ken Norman**

**Seconded by: Cllr. Dawn Barnett**

Supported by: Cllrs Trevor Alford, Vanessa Brown, Maria Caulfield, Denise Cobb, Pat Drake, Ayas Fallon-Khan, Steve Harmer-Strange, Lynda Hyde, Tony Janio, Ted Kemble, Mary Mears, Averil Older, Brian Oxley, Brian Pidgeon, Dee Simson, David Smart, David Smith, Carol Theobald, Geoffrey Theobald, Geoffrey Wells and Jan Young.