

**NOTICE OF MOTION****FRACKING AND EXPLORATORY DRILLING****GREEN GROUP**

This Council notes with concern:

Government proposals to allow the exploration phase of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) by letting companies drill without applying for planning permission,

- the proposed reclassification of drilling as 'Permitted Development' (PD) - rights designed for home improvements, not major drilling infrastructure,
- proposals will bring the production phase of fracking under Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), to be decided centrally by government and the Planning Inspectorate;
- the dangerous precedent that taking decisions away from local planning authorities would constitute, as it takes planning decisions away from our city's communities.

This Council agrees that Councillors and communities represented in local plans should retain democratic control of local mineral and fossil fuel development.

This Council therefore requests that the Chief Executive:

- (1) Responds to the government consultation, and in writing to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:
  - expresses concern for so-called 'fast-track' fracking permissions for onshore shale gas operations;
  - reaffirms Brighton and Hove City Council's opposition to fracking;
  - rejects the changes proposed for PD and NSIP as inappropriate, as such proposals will undermine local democracy and accountability; and
  - with the view that local Minerals Planning Authorities retain local control and primacy for all planning decisions at all stages for all types of oil and gas exploration.
- (2) Writes to the city's three MPs, asking them to object to the proposals.

Proposed by: Cllr Mac Cafferty

Seconded by: Cllr Littman

Supporting Information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/permitted-development-for-shale-gas-exploration>

