



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

COUNCIL ADDENDUM 3 Amendments

4.30PM, THURSDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2023

HOVE TOWN HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBER

ADDENDUM

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Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 82

Date of meeting: 2 February 2023

GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT

Get Me Home Safely

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

This Council notes:

1. Shift work is widespread in many industries, particularly hospitality, as well as health and care workers, retail, cleaning, security and porter staff and can often entail late-night working;
2. Many workers, especially women, are increasingly worried about their safety travelling to and from work at night
3. **The council is developing a VAWG strategy and a community safety strategy**
4. **English Councils do not have the same licencing powers as Scottish councils such as East Dunbartonshire Council referenced within the original Notice of Motion.**

This Council believes:

5. **That the root causes of violence against women is a direct result of societal misogyny which must be tackled if we are to improve the safety of workers, especially women who travel to and from work at night;**
6. **That misogyny when travelling at night is compounded for women who experience further violence such as that resulting from racism, transphobia and ableism;**
7. While employers may feel their duty of care to staff ends when an employee finishes a shift, they also need to take into consideration journeys home, especially during unsocial hours;
8. The weakness of enforcement of the law against sexual assault, including up-skirting, on public transport is appalling and only 2% of victims go on to report sexual harassment on public transport;
9. Unite the union's Get Me Home Safely campaign raises **key issues that we must tackle including improving safety on public transport and in private vehicles**, which calls on employers to take all reasonable steps to ensure workers are able to get home safely from work at night, is greatly needed and should be supported;

10. Recognises that many late-night establishments, especially independent businesses are struggling to stay afloat across the city given the economic uncertainty.

11. Greater numbers of trained staff and stronger enforcement of the law against sexual assault and harassment on public transport are urgently needed;

Therefore, this Council resolves:

~~12.~~ To request officers bring a report to Licensing Committee that seeks to **explore the extent of its** use powers, ~~as other local authorities such as East Dunbartonshire Council have,~~ to adopt a policy that our licensing committee and panels will ensure the process for approving late night licences will be linked to the provision of free transport home going forward.

13. To ask officers, as part of the development of the women and girls' strategy and the community safety strategy, to explore the viability of adopting a women's charter for Brighton and Hove that:

- **focuses on tackling the roots of misogyny;**
- **highlights the dangers that too many women in our city face;**
- **puts forward joined up methods of working to improve safety, especially late at night.**

Supporting Information:

<https://www.unitetheunion.org/campaigns/get-me-home-safely-campaign/>

Proposed by: Cllr John

Seconded by: Cllr Rainey

Recommendations to read if carried:

This Council notes:

1. Shift work is widespread in many industries, particularly hospitality, as well as health and care workers, retail, cleaning, security and porter staff and can often entail late-night working;
2. Many workers, especially women, are increasingly worried about their safety travelling to and from work at night
3. The council is developing a VAWG strategy and a community safety strategy
4. English Councils do not have the same licencing powers as Scottish councils such as East Dunbartonshire Council referenced within the original Notice of Motion.

This Council believes:

5. That the root causes of violence against women is a direct result of societal misogyny which must be tackled if we are to improve the safety of workers, especially women who travel to and from work at night;
6. That misogyny when travelling at night is compounded for women who experience further violence such as that resulting from racism, transphobia and ableism;

7. While employers may feel their duty of care to staff ends when an employee finishes a shift, they also need to take into consideration journeys home, especially during unsocial hours;
8. The weakness of enforcement of the law against sexual assault, including up-skirting, on public transport is appalling and only 2% of victims go on to report sexual harassment on public transport;
9. Unite the union's Get Me Home Safely campaign raises key issues that we must tackle including improving safety on public transport and in private vehicles which calls on employers to take all reasonable steps to ensure workers are able to get home safely from work at night, is greatly needed and should be supported;
10. Recognises that many late-night establishments, especially independent businesses are struggling to stay afloat across the city given the economic uncertainty.
11. Greater numbers of trained staff and stronger enforcement of the law against sexual assault and harassment on public transport are urgently needed;

Therefore, this Council resolves:

12. To request officers bring a report to Licensing Committee that seeks to explore the extent of its powers to adopt a policy that our licensing committee and panels will ensure the process for approving late night licences will be linked to the provision of free transport home going forward.
13. To ask officers, as part of the development of the women and girls' strategy and the community safety strategy, to explore the viability of adopting a women's charter for Brighton and Hove that:
 - focuses on tackling the roots of misogyny;
 - highlights the dangers that too many women in our city face;
 - puts forward joined up methods of working to improve safety, especially late at night.

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

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 87

Date of meeting: 2 February 2023

LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT

Voter ID

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

This council notes:

1. The local elections in May 2023 will take place requiring Voter ID for the first time
2. That these plans have been criticised by experts such as the Association of Election Administrators, the Electoral Reform Society and the Local Government Association [1] [2]
3. ***That even the Electoral Commission, the official watchdog who will oversee the rollout of Voter ID, [has said](#) the timetable could affect people's ability to vote in May, warning of a risk of confusion, valid voters being turned away, and wider confidence in elections being damaged***
4. That evidence of electoral fraud is low, with no voters being prosecuted in 2021 and four in 2019, but that the number of people who will potentially be disenfranchised by the need for ID is much larger [3]
5. ***That millions of people in the UK lack photo ID, in particular those on low incomes and Black Asian and Minority Ethnic people.***
6. ***That government's own data shows that 6% of people say they'll be less likely to vote under these plans, which equates to around 3,000 voters per parliamentary constituency***
7. ***That there remains significant cross-party opposition to these plans. In December 2022 the chairman of the Local Government Association called for the plans to be delayed.***
8. The Leader of the Council has written to Government regarding Voter ID requesting a delay to its introduction
9. ***The Government have been pressured to establish an independent review into the impact of voter ID on turnout in the May 2023 local elections so that the policy can be scrapped if there is evidence that eligible voters have been denied their right to vote***
10. ***That calculations suggest [\[link\]](#) that the government's Voter ID plans will cost around £40m extra in government spending over a decade, representing wasteful use of taxpayers' money***
11. That a clear communications plan has been produced by the City Council to notify residents of the changes as much as possible including information on web, social media and by letter
12. These plans are being introduced too late with little time for voters to be informed of the need for ID

Therefore, resolves to:

13. Reaffirm our opposition to Voter ID following a Notice of Motion ***carried by Council*** in 2019[4]

Brighton & Hove City Council

14. Request officers to consider a further briefing for all councillors with information they can share to help residents understand **which types of ID will be accepted and how to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate** and with more details on the council's planned communications

Proposed by: Cllr Sankey

Seconded by: Cllr Appich

Recommendations to read if carried:

This council notes:

1. The local elections in May 2023 will take place requiring Voter ID for the first time
2. That these plans have been criticised by experts such as the Association of Election Administrators, the Electoral Reform Society and the Local Government Association [1] [2]
3. That even the Electoral Commission, the official watchdog who will oversee the rollout of Voter ID, [has said](#) the timetable could affect people's ability to vote in May, warning of a risk of confusion, valid voters being turned away, and wider confidence in elections being damaged
4. That evidence of electoral fraud is low, with no voters being prosecuted in 2021 and four in 2019, but that the number of people who will potentially be disenfranchised by the need for ID is much larger [3]
5. That millions of people in the UK lack photo ID, in particular those on low incomes and Black Asian and Minority Ethnic people.
6. That government's own data shows that 6% of people say they'll be less likely to vote under these plans, which equates to around 3,000 voters per parliamentary constituency
7. That there remains significant cross-party opposition to these plans. In December 2022 the chairman of the Local Government Association called for the plans to be delayed.
8. The Leader of the Council has written to Government regarding Voter ID requesting a delay to its introduction
9. The Government have been pressured to establish an independent review into the impact of voter ID on turnout in the May 2023 local elections so that the policy can be scrapped if there is evidence that eligible voters have been denied their right to vote
10. That calculations suggest [\[link\]](#) that the government's Voter ID plans will cost around £40m extra in government spending over a decade, representing wasteful use of taxpayers' money
11. That a clear communications plan has been produced by the City Council to notify residents of the changes as much as possible including information on web, social media and by letter
12. These plans are being introduced too late with little time for voters to be informed of the need for ID

Therefore, resolves to:

13. Reaffirm our opposition to Voter ID following a Notice of Motion carried by Council in 2019[4]
14. Request officers to consider a further briefing for all councillors with information they can share to help residents understand which types of ID will be accepted and how to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate and with more details on the council's planned communications