



## Open Letter:

Prime Minister's Office  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

Cllr Phelim Mac Cafferty, Cllr John Allcock & Cllr Carmen Appich  
Brighton & Hove City Council  
Corinna Edwards-Colledge, Brighton & Hove Unison

18 November 2022

Dear Prime Minister

The Green and Labour party at Brighton and Hove City Council, along with Trade Unions in the city are taking the unprecedented step of joining together to launch a petition and write this open letter to you to outline the urgent actions that are required to avert crisis in our local public services.

Yesterday's budget statement has done next to nothing to alleviate the financial emergency our council faces, other than to lay an even bigger burden on the shoulders of our residents by making a 5% increase in council tax inevitable. Over the last twelve years successive Tory governments have cut £110m from our city's budgets, and frozen public sector pay. At the same time demand for our services has increased as our citizens bear the brunt of over a decade of policies that have made the rich richer, and the poor poorer. Over the last year, average weekly pay has increased in the private sector at three times the rate of that in the public sector and as a result, many key workers in Brighton and Hove are reduced to using food banks and struggling to afford to live in their home city.

As the cost-of-living crisis blights the lives of everyone in our city, and millions in the country are bracing themselves to have to choose between heating and eating, councils across the country are now going to have to choose between jobs or services. As Brighton & Hove residents face one of the toughest winters in living memory, they need to know their local councils are getting the support they need from government, not watch them be slowly starved of cash and resources while the government pursues policies that disproportionately benefit the most well off.

We ask you to urgently review the settlement for local government and fund a minimum inflation level pay rise for local government workers. We are struggling to retain key staff such as social workers, care workers, planners and teaching assistants; many of whom can now earn more working in hospitality and retail. The services they run are vital to the health and wellbeing of residents, and the skills and experience they have amassed are invaluable and costly to replace.

Local government has already been cut to the bone. There is nothing left to take, and there is no justification for making ordinary people and public services pay for mistakes that they did not make. As politicians, employers and unions, we are joined in solidarity to demand that you fulfil your role

as the country's leading public servant, in protecting and funding the very services and workers that the public rely on the most.

Yours sincerely



**Corinna Edwards-Colledge**, Joint Branch Secretary, Brighton & Hove Unison



**Cllr Phelim Mac Cafferty**, Leader Brighton & Hove City Council & Green Group



**Cllr Carmen Appich**, Co Leader Brighton & Hove City Council Labour Group



**Cllr John Allcock**, Co Leader Brighton & Hove City Council Labour Group

And countersigned by:

1. Caroline Lucas MP
2. Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP
3. Liz Ritson, Branch Secretary, Brighton & Hove National Education Union (NEU)
4. Mark Turner, Branch Secretary, GMB Sussex Branch
5. Andy Richards, Chair Brighton & Hove Trades District Council
6. Ivan Bonsell, Branch Secretary UNISON, University of Brighton

Local Employers:

1. Jane Austen, **Custom Pharma Services**
2. Georgie Aylwin, **Happy Maki**
3. Mo Kanjilal, **Watch this Sp\_ace**
4. Simon Webster, Sophie Webster, **Simon Webster Hair**
5. Miranda Glavin, **Elev8 Careers**
6. Alex Watson, **Arne Agency**
7. Vicky Haines & Olly Carter, **Kingsway Care**
8. Naomi Meldrum, Matt Trenner, Liam Pledger **Pebblebeach Fundraising**
9. Minesh Agustin, **Zedity Brighton**
10. Jordan Mower, Stewart Cumming, **Unbarred Brewery**
11. Jan Rust, **UnitedUS**
12. Rebecca Barker, **Career Starter**
13. Ieva Gribuste, **Brighton Chiro**
14. Aaron Thomas, Louisa Delphy, **HIVE19**
15. Joy Wheeler, **Quotacom**
16. Keir Heyman, **Coastline Fire Protection**
17. Richard Freeman, **Always Possible**
18. Mel Berry, **Social Firefly**
19. Caroline Wright, **DMH Stallard LLP**
20. Jordan Quinn; **Old Tree Brewery**
21. Helen Vane, **Go Gecko Recruitment LTD**
22. Ian Churchman, **Laboutique du Parquet**

Citizenship, Community, Voluntary & Charitable Groups

1. Sebastien Chapleau, **Citizens UK**
2. Paris Palmano, **Brighton Citizens**

3. Paula Woolven, **Havens Community Hub**
4. Olivia Canham, Aisling Murray, **Community Base**
5. Reyna Kothari, **Old Boat Corner Community Centre**
6. Elly Hargreave, **Pedal People Charity**