



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

**CONSERVATIVE GROUP
Room G84, Hove Town Hall
Norton Road, Hove BN23 3BQ**

13 July 2021

Geoff Raw
CEO, Brighton & Hove City Council
Geoff.Raw@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Cllr Alan Robins
Mayor, Brighton & Hove City Council
MayorsOffice@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Dear Chief Executive Officer and Mr Mayor,

REQUEST FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

In accordance with Paragraph 4.4 of the Council's Procedure Rules, we, the undersigned, are writing to request that an Extraordinary Meeting of Council be held as follows:

1. To transact the following business:

This Council resolves to:

- a) Reserve the power of Full Council to make a decision on matters that would otherwise be transacted at the Special Meeting of the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee that is scheduled for Wednesday 21st July 2021 at 4pm; and,
- b) To convene a meeting of full Council as soon as is reasonably practicable to take democratic decisions on the reserved matters.

We request that this Extraordinary Meeting of Council be held no later than midday on Wednesday 21st July 2021, in order to provide enough time for the Special Meeting of the Environment Transport and Sustainability Committee to be informed of the decision of Full Council to reserve its power to decide this matter.

Reasons

The Conservative Group of Councillors has rarely felt the need to call upon Paragraph 4.4 of the Council's Procedure and call an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council. As far as we are aware, the Conservative Group has only once before

Conservative Group of Councillors
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called an Extraordinary Meeting. This should underscore how strongly we feel about the matter in hand.

In taking this rare step, we want to outline our reasons to you both:

- The current arrangements for deciding Active Travel Measures in the City (Namely the Special Environment Transport and Sustainability meeting scheduled for 21st July) are undemocratic.
- It is our view that 'reduced capacity' arrangements for Committees that Brighton & Hove City Council is currently employing were never intended to be used in the way they have been proposed here; namely to schedule a Special Committee meeting, a matter of days before full attendance meetings are allowed once again, to decide a series of highly controversial measures that will impact traffic flow in the City for years to come.
- The reduced capacity arrangements were instead put in place to keep General Business ticking over during a short period between May and July 2021.
- Active Travel has been one of the most controversial issues in the City over the past year; having been the subject of many petitions from residents and local issues groups and the source of much public commentary and debate.
- The Active Travel Fund report contains measures which will determine traffic arrangements in the city for many years to come and touches on almost all of these controversial issues that have been raised by residents of this City.
- We understand that there are currently at least 15 draft recommendations to be proposed; residents expect these to receive scrutiny by more than just three Councillors. No agenda for the Special Meeting has even yet been produced.
- We therefore have strong concerns about the democratic standing in the public eye of any decisions made under the reduced capacity provisions of a Special meeting with only three councillors present. We feel that the circumstances and timing of the meeting would deserve the consideration by the Secretary of State and potentially the Local Government Ombudsman.
- The forum of Full Council would ensure that these key decisions are taken with a greater number of Councillors present. Instead of three Councillors making these decisions, a full complement of 54 would be permitted to have their say.



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- We consider this to be a reasonable request; one that acknowledges the current working arrangements of the Council and works with the Council to produce a better and more democratic decision-making process.

We hope that you will be amenable to this request and see the democratic imperative of facilitating this Extraordinary Meeting of Council meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Samer Bagaeen

Councillor Alistair McNair

Councillor Dawn Barnett

Councillor Mary Mears

Councillor Steve Bell CBE

Councillor Joe Miller

Councillor Vanessa Brown

Councillor Robert Nemeth

Councillor Nick Lewry

Councillor Garry Peltzer Dunn

Councillor Dee Simson

Councillor Carol Theobald

Councillor Anne Meadow