# Tristram Burden resigns over public health cuts in Brighton and Hove



Tristram Burden, the former Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Service Transformation in Brighton and Hove, has resigned from his role following a recent Scrutiny Committee meeting where he passionately opposed cuts to public health services. Burden's departure serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for councillors to prioritize community interests over misguided party directives, especially in light of Labour's promises that have quickly faded.

Steve Davis, the Green Group Convenor and Leader of the Opposition, commented on Burden's resignation, emphasising that councillors should act as genuine community representatives rather than pawns of their party. He remarked, “this is a prime example of a councillor prepared to uphold their principles and not be bullied into accepting cuts that harm the community.”

However, it is crucial to highlight that these cuts are symptomatic of a broader trend under the current Labour administration. Despite their pledges for 'Change,' what we are witnessing is merely a continuation of austerity measures that disproportionately affect essential public services while the government chooses to ramp up defence spending by 11%. Such misplaced priorities are unacceptable and directly undermine the welfare of citizens who depend on these crucial services.

In the financial realm, the Labour-led council in Brighton and Hove faces complexities with their annual wage bill surging by approximately £4 million, a consequence of increased National Insurance Contributions imposed by the government. Despite a small reduction in public health cuts of £230,000, as indicated by Council Leader Bella Sankey, this amounts to little more than a drop in the ocean when faced with the ongoing austerity measures that have persisted under Labour's management. The council's decisions to outsource learning disability services and cut Youth Led Grants demonstrate a troubling path that prioritizes budgets over community needs.

The Local Government Association further warns that councils across the UK could confront an eye-watering £8 billion funding gap by the fiscal year 2028/29. Without immediate and decisive action in the forthcoming Spending Review, local authorities may be forced into impossible choices regarding vital services. In light of these challenges, it is imperative that Labour councillors in Brighton and Hove speak out against the devastating impacts of continuous funding cuts and stand up for their constituents.

Davis ultimately calls for his fellow councillors to critically examine the narrative surrounding budget allocations. He underscores the desperate need to oppose the relentless austerity measures being perpetuated by the current government. “It is high time we challenge Ministers about this unending cycle of cuts and ensure our communities’ needs are prioritized,” he stated, urging action at all levels to bring about real change.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2025/02/12/cabinet-member-steps-down/> - This article confirms Tristram Burden's resignation as Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Service Transformation in Brighton and Hove. It highlights his continued role as a ward councillor and the reasons surrounding his resignation.
* <https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2025/02/15/council-scales-back-proposed-cuts-in-public-health-budget/> - This article discusses the proposed cuts in the public health budget and Councillor Burden's opposition to these cuts, which were a factor in his resignation. It also mentions the council's decision to scale back some of these cuts.
* <https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/local-government-association-warns-8-billion-funding-gap-councils> - This article from the Local Government Association warns about a potential £8 billion funding gap for UK councils by 2028/29, highlighting the financial challenges faced by local authorities like Brighton and Hove.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-64511149> - This BBC article discusses the UK government's spending priorities, including increased defence spending, which contrasts with cuts to public services like those in Brighton and Hove.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2024/jun/20/local-councils-face-8bn-funding-gap-by-2029> - This Guardian article further details the funding gap faced by UK councils, emphasizing the need for urgent action to address these financial challenges.