

Motion on Notice

‘Count them in’ - Making the next census count for our Armed Forces community

The ‘Count Them In’ campaign launched by the Royal British Legion in May 2016, highlights the lack of gathered knowledge on members of our armed forces, their communities, where they live and their needs to support and deliver the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant.

The ‘Count them in’ campaign calls on the UK, Scottish and Northern Irish governments to include a new topic in the 2021 census that concerns military service and membership of the Armed Forces community. The Legion maintains that the 2021 census provides a unique opportunity for the nation to produce a comprehensive snapshot of its Armed Forces population, ensuring that resources and policies can be evidence-based and reach those who most need our support.

Locally capturing this data will enable better understanding of the population in Adur and Worthing, specifically Regular and Reservist Serving personnel, veterans and their families leading to more focused support the Armed Forces community in line with the principles each Council has signed up to in the Armed Forces Covenant.

The Council calls upon the UK Parliament to include in the final census questionnaire questions concerning our Armed Forces community.

Proposed by: Councillor George Barton, Armed Forces Champion

Seconded by: Councillor David Simmons

Relevant Council Policies:

Community Covenant

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/about-the-councils/corporate-strategies-and-policies/community-covenant/>

Local Government Act 1972

Background papers: Emails Councillor Barton and Councillor Simmons 15 November 2016