

Council, Tuesday 3 November 2009

Motion 3.8: Councillor Matthew Offord

Territorial Army Training

Council believes that every possible support should be given to our Territorial Army, particularly at a time when British armed forces are fighting a difficult and bloody war on our behalf.

Council sends its utmost support to the soldiers from the London Regiment who will be deployed in Afghanistan at the beginning of next year.

Council notes that the government has cut the training budget for the Territorial Army by £20 million. As a consequence members of the London Regiment may have fewer training days or have to train without pay. Although those reservists who will shortly be sent on active service in Afghanistan will still go on Pre-Deployment Training, the lack of training at other times will inevitably leave less time for reservists to reach battle readiness.

Council believes that the government's action sends a terrible message to our serving reservists and that it will damage the ability of the London Regiment to recruit volunteers in the future.

Consequently Council requests that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Defence to demand that the cuts to the London Regiment's training be reversed in this time of war.

Under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.