

	<p><b>Policy and Resources Committee</b></p> <p><b>1 December 2016</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Referral from Full Council 1 November 2016 – Opposition Motion in the name of Councillor Mittra</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Head of Governance</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Kirstin Lambert, Governance Team Leader  <a href="mailto:kirstin.lambert@barnet.gov.uk">kirstin.lambert@barnet.gov.uk</a>, 020 8359 2177</p>
<p><b>Summary</b></p>	
<p>The report informs the Policy &amp; Resources Committee of an opposition motion referred from Full Council meeting of 1 November 2016. Council Procedure Rule 23.5 states that “If the Member's Motion is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it will be referred to the appropriate Council Committee or sub-Committee for consideration and any necessary action”. An opposition motion from Councillor Mittra on ‘Royal British Legion "Count Them In" Campaign: Making the next census count for our Armed Forces community’ has been referred to Policy &amp; Resources Committee under this rule. Details of the motion are contained in this report.</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation</b></p>	
<p><b>That the Policy and Resources Committee instructions are required in relation to this item.</b></p>	

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 On 1 November 2016 Councillor Arjun Mittra submitted an Opposition Motion to Full Council on Royal British Legion "Count Them In" Campaign: Making the next census count for our Armed Forces community.
- 1.2 The motion has been referred to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration under Council Procedure Rule 23.5.
- 1.3 The full text of the motion is as below:

**Council places on record its gratitude for the courage, service and sacrifice of members of Her Majesty's armed forces, past and present, during military conflicts, in countering terrorism and in carrying out peacekeeping and humanitarian duties.**

### **Council notes:**

- **The obligations it owes to the Armed Forces community within the Borough of Barnet as enshrined in the Armed Forces Covenant; that the Armed Forces community should not face disadvantage in the provision of services and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most.**
- **The absence of definitive and comprehensive statistics on the size or demographics of the Armed Forces community in Barnet. This includes serving Regular and Reserve personnel, veterans, and their families.**
- **That the availability of such data would greatly assist the Council, local partner agencies, the voluntary sector, and national Government in the planning and provision of services to address the unique needs of the Armed Forces community in Barnet.**

### **Council therefore resolves to:**

- **Support and promote The Royal British Legion's campaign 'Count Them In' to include a new topic in the 2021 census that concerns military service and membership of the Armed Forces community.**
- **Urge Barnet's elected members to sign up as individual supporters to the 'Count Them In' campaign.**
- **Ask the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition to jointly write to the Secretary of State for Defence, setting out the Council's position that we wish to see the UK Parliament approve a**

**final census questionnaire in 2019, which includes questions concerning our Armed Forces community, for use in the 2021 Census.**

- **Ask the interim Chief Executive to write to the Borough's three Members of Parliament, and the Assembly Member for Barnet & Camden, asking them to also make representations on this matter to the Secretary of State for Defence.**

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 No recommendations have been made. The Policy and Resources Committee are therefore requested to give consideration to the motion and provide instruction.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 Not applicable.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Post decision implementation will depend on the decision taken by the Committee.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 If the committee propose to action in relation to this motion, any actions arising will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.3.1 Council Constitution, Responsibility for Functions, Annex A – the terms of reference of the Policy and Resources Committee includes:

‘(1) To be the principal means by which advice on strategic policy and plans is given and co-ordinated and to recommend to Full Council, as necessary, on strategic issues... (2) To be responsible for the overall strategic direction of the Council...and (5) To consider and take any necessary action upon proposals for new legislation, Bills before Parliament, Acts of Parliament and other proceedings before Parliament affecting or likely to affect the interests of the Borough or its inhabitants generally where not the specific concern of any other committee(s).’

5.3.2 There are no legal references in the context of this report.

#### 5.4 **Risk Management**

5.4.1 None in the context of this report.

#### 5.5 **Equalities and Diversity**

5.5.1 All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

#### 5.6 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.6.1 None in the context of this report.

### 6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 Minutes of the meeting of Full Council, 1 November 2016.