

Amendment to Opposition Motion in the name of Councillor Arjun Mittra  
'Commonwealth and Veterans' Support'

Amendment in the name of Councillor Lachhya Gurung

Edit "Council notes":

2. should be edited to read:

"Commonwealth veterans are supposed to receive indefinite leave to remain in the UK, however, when their service is complete many are left with extortionate charges to do so."

Motion should now read:

Opposition Motion in the name of Councillor Arjun Mittra  
Amended by Councillor Lachhya Gurung

**Commonwealth and Veterans' Support**

Council notes:

1. Commonwealth veterans have a long and proud history of service in the British military. From World War II to recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, Commonwealth veterans have served with distinction alongside British born veterans.
2. Commonwealth veterans are supposed to receive indefinite leave to remain in the UK, however, when their service is complete many are left with extortionate charges to do so.
3. Fees for indefinite leave to remain have also dramatically increased. Since 2015, fees have increased by nearly 127% from £1051 - £2381 with a family of four having to pay nearly £10000 to remain in the UK. This doesn't include associated legal fees that some who have struggled with immigration applications may need to pay. This has led to many facing spiralling debt and uncertain immigration status with the very real prospect of deportation. Whilst their applications are ongoing commonwealth veterans are also unable to seek employment or claim benefits.

Council believes:

1. This is poor reward for people persuaded to leave their countries in order to serve in the British armed forces and put their lives on the line in the service of this country.

Council resolves to:

1. Make Barnet's armed forces champions and lead officers aware of the difficulties experienced by commonwealth veterans and ensure that those who are currently experiencing problems, whether financial or immigration difficulties, are not disadvantaged whilst their applications are ongoing.
2. Council also asks the Leaders of all three political Groups to write to the Prime Minister, the minister of state for immigration, and the minister of state for veterans' affairs outlining Council's support for all commonwealth veterans who have served a minimum of 4 years to be granted automatic and free of charge right to remain in the UK and that any veteran who completes 12 years of service to be automatically given British Citizenship.
3. Council also asks the Leaders of all three political Groups to write to all three Barnet MPs to ask them to press the Government for a change in the legislation as set out above.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.