

MEETING OF COUNCIL – 29 MARCH 2017

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – REQUEST FOR NOTICE OF MOTION

As Armed Forces Champion for the local authority, I can confirm that the Royal British Legion have requested BCBC's formal support for the Legion's ongoing '**Count them in**' campaign which is calling for changes to the UK Census, in order to capture data at a local authority level regarding the size and needs of the Armed Forces Community. To date the campaign has received excellent support across Wales and the UK with official pledges from

- One third of all MP's
- 31 Welsh Assembly Members
- Welsh Government
- 119 Local Authorities
- 18 Military Charities and academic institutions including Help for Heroes, CAIS Change Step, SSAFA, Combat Stress and Walking with the Wounded.

The full support of local government in Wales for this campaign will send a clear signal to the UK government and Office for National Statistics, that local partners are committed to delivering for the Armed Forces Community but that currently it is difficult to plan services due to the lack of accurate and reliable data relating to the Armed Forces Community in our local areas.

I therefore recommend that a Notice of Motion is supported by Council to also add official support for the Royal British Legion's '**Count them in**' campaign.

Councillor MEJ Nott OBE.