

8.11.11

Alison, Please check if Keith needs to go to Cabinet for Council



Reading is happy
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Michael Coughlin
Chief Executive

to do this -

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 7AE
☎ 0118 937 3737

Fax: 0118 937 2155

Our Ref: CE/LS/J/Letters/2011
Your Ref:

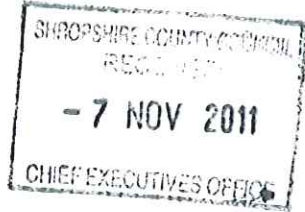
Direct: ☎ 0118 937 2067
e-mail: chief.executive@reading.gov.uk

3 November 2011

for approval, (Claire Porter will advise which is more appropriate).
Kew

Read memo to do it?

Chief Executive
Shropshire Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND



Dear Chief Executive

GURKHA CAMPAIGN FOR PENSION PARITY

I am writing on behalf of Reading Borough Council to ask you to support the Gurkha campaign for Pension Parity and to invite you to sign the e-petition and to promote in your local area, in pursuit of their case.

You will no doubt be aware of the proud 200-year heritage that Gurkhas have in support of the UK, at home and abroad.

The long established and vibrant Nepali community in Reading has grown substantially in recent years with the arrival of ex-Gurkhas and their families and there are now estimated to be around 5000 people of Nepali origin in the Greater Reading area. Reading Borough Council has developed a close working relationship with the Nepali Community in supporting people to settle into the area.

Notwithstanding the recent advances that have been made with and for the Gurkha community, this council regrets that Gurkha servicemen discharged before 1 July 1997 are still being discriminated against in terms of their pensions and that they and their widows are being denied parity with other British and Commonwealth ex-servicemen.

I have therefore been instructed to write to you in the above terms and confirm that this Council urges you - along with our own Mayor, Group leaders and the Members of Parliament for Reading - to sign the e-petition on the direct.gov website and encourage residents in your area to do likewise. The petition can be found at:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/10609>

I do hope you will feel able to lend your support to this important issue for a highly valued community and look forward to your contribution to a nationwide effort to have this matter addressed. I enclose a copy of this letter for your Council's Leader as instructed by my Council.

Yours sincerely

Michael Coughlin
Chief Executive

