



Committee and date

Council

24 November 2011

Item

16

Public

GURKHA CAMPAIGN FOR PENSION PARITY

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1.0 Summary

This report relates to a request received from Reading Borough Council for this Council to lend its support to the campaign to end discrimination against Gurkha ex-servicemen.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council considers the request received from Reading Borough Council.

REPORT

3. Background

- 3.1 Correspondence has been received from the Chief Executive of Reading Borough Council urging this Council to support the Gurkha campaign for pension parity. The Council is being invited to sign the e-petition to be found on the direct.gov website, and to promote their cause by encouraging Shropshire residents to do likewise, in pursuit of the Gurkhas' case.
- 3.2 In support Reading Borough Council advises that the Gurkhas have a proud 200 year heritage of assisting the UK at home and abroad. But, notwithstanding recent advances made for the Gurkha community, Gurkha ex-servicemen discharged before 1 July 1997 are still being discriminated against in terms of their pensions. Further, they and their widows are being denied parity with other British and ex servicemen.
- 3.3 Reading Borough Council's Mayor, Group Leaders and the Members of Parliament for Reading are all supporting the campaign and are seeking the support of this Council and the residents within its area to do likewise.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Keith Barrow

Local Member

All

Appendices

Letter from Reading Borough Council