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| <p><b>Council</b></p> <p>21 July 2011</p> | <p><b>Agenda Item 15(a)</b></p> <p>Brighton &amp; Hove City Council</p> |
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**NOTICE OF MOTION**

**LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT**

**AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE**

To insert a new paragraph 4 and the following wording after the word ‘veterans’ in what would be paragraph 6 ***‘servicemen and women being made redundant,’*** as shown in bold italics below:

“This Council recognises the huge contribution made by the UK’s armed forces in protecting the basic and fundamental freedoms which we all take for granted. As a result of their duties they sacrifice civilian freedoms, face constant danger and sometimes suffer serious injury or even death. At the very least, they deserve our respect and support and should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of services.

This Council warmly welcomes recent initiatives in Brighton & Hove which have sought to recognise the unique contribution of the armed forces such as the ‘Heroes Welcome’ campaign, Armed Forces Day celebrations, the Freedom Parade and the awarding of Freedom of the City to Henry Allingham and Flight Lieutenant Marc Heal.

However, this Council recognises that both nationally and locally, the Armed Forces community (including veterans, reservists and their families) face many unique social and economic problems and distinct challenges in accessing services provided by public authorities.

***This Council also notes with regret the announcement on Monday of significant cuts by the Government to the Armed Forces, including 19,000 posts in the Army, and the effect this is likely to have on many servicemen and women from Brighton and Hove.***

Therefore, this Council welcomes the recent commitment by the Government to enshrine the national Armed Forces Covenant into law. This will bring about tangible benefits to the Armed Forces Community including increasing council tax relief to 50%, a pupil premium for service children, a new veterans’ information service, a Veterans’ Card and a Troops to Teachers scheme.

This Council wishes to further show its moral and practical support to the local armed forces, veterans, ***servicemen and women being made redundant,*** reservists and their families by committing to sign a Community Covenant.

The aims of the Community Covenant include:

- Encouraging local communities to support the Armed Forces in their areas and vice versa;
- Promoting understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community;
- Recognising and remembering the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces community; and
- Encouraging activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life.

Therefore, this Council requests that the Cabinet considers signing a Brighton & Hove Community Covenant and asks for a report to be brought to a future meeting on how such a Covenant could be implemented, with a view to launching the Covenant on Remembrance Day 2011; and such report should be drawn up in close consultation with the Armed Forces Community and their representative organisations in Brighton and Hove.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Warren Morgan

Seconded by: Cllr. Leigh Farrow