

***Motion on Notice
Outstanding from the
Last Ordinary Meeting of
the Council***

MOTION ON NOTICE

Council Members are asked to consider the under-mentioned motion which was outstanding from the last ordinary meeting of the Council on 23 March 2022:-

1. Armed Forces Act 2021

This Council stands firmly behind our UK Armed Forces and fully supports the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant, welcomes the new Armed Forces Act, but sees the legislation as a missed opportunity to improve the lives of veterans here in Sunderland.

This Council therefore notes with disappointment:

- that the Act which makes Sunderland Council and local public bodies legally bound to have “due regard” to the Covenant when providing support to Forces communities but exempts central government from any such duty, creating a two-tier Covenant for veterans.
- that Labour led proposals backed by the Royal British Legion and ex-Service chiefs to enshrine the Covenant fully into law but Conservative MPs voted down these plans to improve Armed Forces accommodation, employment support and pensions and to end the scandal of visa fees for Commonwealth and Gurkha personnel.

This Council therefore resolves to continue the campaign with Forces’ charities to see the Government strengthen the Covenant and improve vital services to veterans.

Councillor P. Tye (Proposer)

Councillor G. Miller (Seconder)

Signed by:-

Councillor P. Tye
Councillor G. Miller
Councillor M. Butler
Councillor S. Foster
Councillor P. Stewart

Councillor K. Johnston
Councillor P. Walker
Councillor J. Heron
Councillor P. Smith
Councillor F. Miller

Councillor L. Williams
Councillor J. Usher
Councillor C. Rowntree
Councillor K. Chequer
Councillor L. Farthing

