

Labour Group amendment to Independent Motion - Honouring Veterans

Moved by Councillor Ken Rustidge.

Seconded by Councillor Josh Charters.

Delete

Insert

Our veterans have served King and Country with distinction, honour, and integrity.

This Remembrance Sunday and throughout the year a great many of Oldham's residents will remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedom and protected our way of life.

Remembering not just ~~It is why as we come up to remembrance, that we use this time to recall~~ the sacrifice of those ~~not just~~ who died ~~in service~~ serving our nation but all those ~~who came home also~~ whose lives were forever changed by their service too.

For some the change from being a serving soldier to civilian life can be difficult. It is why ~~we ask that the~~ Oldham Council **is committed to achieving the Gold Award under the Armed Forces Covenant ~~do all they can~~ to support our veterans and ~~to make sure~~ ensures** that our Borough's War memorials, war graves and all other assets are kept safe and secure for future generations. We must also remember the sacrifice of those from this Borough who served not just King, ~~and~~ Country **and the Commonwealth**, but those who made the **ultimate sacrifice and died in service. ~~for King and Empire, as well as the Commonwealth.~~**

~~It is why it is imperative that the Council call on the government to do more to protect our veterans from malicious prosecution, especially those from Northern Ireland who served under Operation Banner, where several veterans in their twilight years have faced worry and fear of reprisal. This is also the case with the more recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.~~

Resolution to The Troubles in Northern Ireland ended a dark chapter in the history of our nation, with the deaths of approximately 3,500 people. A consensus on how to deal with this legacy has proved difficult and efforts to bring truth and reconciliation that enjoy broad support across Northern Ireland remain ongoing.

This Council notes that:

- 3.4% of Failsworth's population are veterans, 1.8% of Oldham's population are veterans, 2.5% of Chadderton, Saddleworth and Lees population are veterans, 3.4% in Shaw and Crompton and 4.1% in Royton are veterans.
- **Oldham Council proudly holds a Silver Award under the Armed Forces Covenant, and we're working toward achieving Gold to recognise our continued support for veterans.**
- **In July, we passed a motion honouring veterans, and since then, we've secured a discount at Oldham Community Leisure for veterans. This provides affordable access to facilities that help promote their physical and mental well-being.**
- **Through our Armed Forces Covenant Partnership, we regularly meet with partners to discuss veterans' challenges and develop solutions, working closely with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Mayor to amplify our efforts in Greater Manchester.**
- **Across GM we have recently developed a 5-year roadmap and delivery plan which seeks to formalise the way in which partners come together to support the armed forces community.**

This Council resolves to:

1. Support the work of the Royal British Legion and other veterans' charities to help improve the lives of those who served King and Country.
2. Maintain up-to-date assets register of all monuments **and** memorials ~~and other valued objects~~ that relate to the proud history of HM Armed Forces in Oldham.
3. Continue to fight for our veterans when it comes to providing the necessary support once they have left the service but also for those who currently serve.
4. Reaffirms its commitment to HM Armed Forces and the Armed Forces Covenant.

This Council further resolves:

1. To **ask the Acting Chief Executive to** write
 - a. to Oldham's Members of Parliament to ~~use their offices to do everything they can to protect veterans, especially those who served under Operation Banner and subsequent conflicts from malicious prosecutions. Asking them to stand by all those that served King and Country.~~ **confirm to them Oldham Council's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and to ask them to support our efforts to achieve the Gold Award.**
 - b. **to the Minister for Veterans and People to ask what measures the Government is taking to support our veterans and ensure they have access to the services they need.**

Amended motion to read:

Our veterans have served King and Country with distinction, honour, and integrity.

This Remembrance Sunday and throughout the year a great many of Oldham's residents will remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedom and protected our way of life.

Remembering not just the sacrifice of those who died serving our nation but all those whose lives were forever changed by their service too.

For some the change from being a serving soldier to civilian life can be difficult. It is why Oldham Council is committed to achieving the Gold Award under the Armed Forces Covenant to support our veterans and ensures that our Borough's War memorials, war graves and all other assets are kept safe and secure for future generations. We must also remember the sacrifice of those from this Borough who served not just King, Country and the Commonwealth, but those who made the ultimate sacrifice and died in service.

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