

NOTICE(S) OF MOTION

Report of the County Solicitor

Recommendation: that consideration be given to any recommendations to be made to the County Council in respect of the Notice(s) of Motion set out hereunder having regard to the relevant factual briefing/background papers and any other representations made to the Cabinet.

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1. The Notice of Motion submitted to the County Council by former Councillor Younger-Ross set out below was referred to the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 8(2) - for consideration, reference to another committee or to make a recommendation back to the Council. A factual 'Briefing Note/Position Statement' prepared by the relevant Head of Service is also set out, to facilitate the Cabinet's discussion of each Notice of Motion.

### **'Royal Marines and Royal Navy Service Cuts**

*This Council notes the announcement of the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Philip Jones to cut the Royal Marines by 200 personnel.*

*This Council further notes that these cuts are to be made to transfer funds to other parts of the Navy.*

*This Council recognises the important roll the Royal Marines play in defence of the UK. That they are a world class fighting force, providing a fast, flexible and mobile force and that members of the Royal Marines make up nearly 50% of our elite fighting forces such as the SAS and SBS.*

*This Council is proud of the association Devon has with both the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines.*

*This Council is concerned that these cuts will have a detrimental effect on the defensive capabilities of the UK and calls upon the Council Leader to make representations to the Government to reconsider these proposed cuts to the Marines and to look at the priorities for the Royal Navy and how it is to be funded'.*

### **Officers Briefing Note/Position Statement**

There are 6,790 Royal Marines in service in the UK with a further 310 Full Time Reserve Service. The proposed cuts are to 42 Commando alone and will see the total number of marines reduced to 6,590, a decrease in size of nearly 3%. 42 Commando is based at Bickleigh Barracks, located close to Plymouth in the South Hams, with training taking place at a variety of locations, including at Lymestone in East Devon.

According to media sources the cuts will come equally from backroom staff and frontline units. Whilst this is the first cut to the Royal Marines for three decades the Royal Navy has seen significant reductions in size over the past few years; by over 2,000 personnel between 2013 and 2017 alone. It has been proposed that the cuts come through natural wastage so there will be no compulsory redundancies to existing staff. Over the next 10 years the MOD is expected to find £5.6bn in savings and efficiencies on current estimations, so there is the potential for more cuts to other areas of the armed services and the Royal Navy. It is unknown whether these cuts, or those planned for 42 Commando, have the potential to impact on the UK's defensive capabilities and it is difficult to assess the overall impact or level of reduction, without further comment from the MoD.

The loss of 200 personnel would in theory equate to an approximate reduction in take home pay of £4m from the local area (based on an average annual pay of £25k). Whilst this may have a potential negative impact on the spending profile of the local economy, it must be noted that because these cuts are through natural wastage those who leave may be moving to other employment or retirement, so would in reality continue to contribute in terms of both income and spending.

In 2012 Devon County Council joined forces with Royal Navy, the Army and Royal Air Force to sign Devon's Armed Forces Covenant. It is a set of pledges to encourage a closer relationship between civilian and military communities around the support given to servicemen and women and their families.

2. The Notice of Motion submitted to the County Council by Councillor Greenslade was also referred to the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 8(2) for consideration, reference to another committee or to make a recommendation back to the Council. However, and at the request of the Mover, consideration of this Notice of Motion will be deferred until the next meeting. .

**'NHS in Devon - Public Enquiry**

*'While applauding the care provided by all our NHS medical staff the County Council is concerned at the current state of the NHS in Devon, the impact the NHS "Success Regime" is having and studies suggesting many GP's will be retiring, being examples of areas for concern.*

*Accordingly the County Council agrees to establish a local public inquiry to consider the state of the NHS in Devon'.*

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This Report has no specific equality, environmental, legal or public health implications that will not be assessed and appropriate safeguards and/or actions taken or included within the detailed policies or practices or requirements in relation to the matters referred to herein.

JAN SHADBOLT

[Electoral Divisions: All]

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for Enquiries: R Hooper

Tel No: 01392 382300 Room: G31

<u>Background Paper</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>File Reference</u>
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Nil