

MOTION ON NOTICE RECEIVED PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Council procedure Rule 12, the following Motion has been received from Councillors T G Cutmore and P A Capon:-

‘This Council notes that Ghurkhas have played an active front line part in the British army’s activities in times of war and peace for nearly 200 years. In this period approximately 300,000 have fought alongside United Kingdom soldiers, with 45,000 of them being killed or wounded.

This Council notes that the Government announced in September 2004 a change of immigration rules that allowed Ghurkhas, who had served in the British army, to settle in the United Kingdom with their families.

This Council notes with concern, however, that this offer has only been extended to cover those who had served at least four years and had been discharged after 1st July 1997.

This Council believes that, given the exceptional service they have given to the United Kingdom, Ghurkhas and their families should be given fast track eligibility for either the right to remain or citizenship.

Therefore this Council:-

Urges Rochford District Members of Parliament to support Early Day Motions that seek to extend Gurkha rights.

Asks the Chief Executive of the Council to write to the Local Government Association asking them, in turn, to lobby the Government on this matter.

Asks the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister, demanding that all retired Ghurkhas who fought in the British Army get the right to citizenship, as well as a fair deal on pensions.’

Sarah Fowler

Head of Information and Customer Services

Background Papers:-

Notices Received

For further information please contact John Bostock on:-

Tel:- 01702 318140

E-Mail:- john.bostock@rochford.gov.uk

If you would like this report in large print, braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.