This Motion is proposed by Councillor Alan Ogilvie and seconded by Councillor Caroline Moon.

“Count Them In

As this Council’s Armed Forces Champion, I would like to highlight and recommend to you a campaign being run by the Royal British Legion and ask the Council to consider supporting it.

The Count Them In campaign aims to have new questions added to the 2021 census in order to improve understanding of the Armed Forces Community, which includes serving personnel, veterans and their families.

It is estimated that there are currently between 6.5 and 6.7 million members of the Armed Forces community living in the UK, representing about a tenth of the population. However, little is currently known about the exact numbers, location and needs of this significant group. Including new questions on the next census would provide public bodies, local authorities, and charities with valuable information to ensure they are able to deliver the best services they can for our Armed Forces community.

I believe that anyone serving or who has served in HM Forces deserves support and understanding and any initiative which helps deliver this is vital. Having data from the census would enable Councils and their partners to identify and plan services effectively.

I hope that all members across the Council agree with me that this is a laudable campaign.

Council therefore resolves that

The Royal British Legion be informed that this Council confirms it’s support for the Count Them In campaign and that new questions should be added to the 2021 Census to improve the understanding of the Armed Forces Community.”