

NOTICE OF MOTION**Review of Gurkha Rights**

In November, residents of Brighton & Hove will once again mark the dedication and commitment of those who have served in and supported this country's armed forces.

This Council:

Welcomes the opening in Reading of the first UK office of the United British-Gurkha Ex-Servicemen's Association.

Recognises that Gurkhas 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 either killed or wounded.

Acknowledges that the Government announced in September 2004 a change in immigration rules that allowed Gurkhas who had served in the British Army to settle in the United Kingdom with their families.

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

In view of this, this Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP, and the Secretary of State for Defence, the Rt Hon Des Browne MP asking them to:

1. review the immigration rules for ex Ghurkha soldiers and their families,
2. consider their rights of citizenship and voting,
3. consider a fair deal on their pensions.

Proposed: Cllr Steve Harmer-Strange Seconded: Cllr Paul Elgood
Cllr Tony Janio

