

## **Uttlesford District Council**

### **Full Council meeting 17 December 2024**

#### **Member Motion on supporting recipients of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme in maximising their benefit entitlements**

To be proposed by Cllr Dan McBirnie

This Council acknowledges the contribution and sacrifices that service families make, and reaffirms the range of measures the Council takes to make this recognition real under in line with our signed Covenant to the Armed Forces.

Council particularly notes that for several years, in common with many other (but not all) local authorities, Uttlesford District Council maximised its discretion in disregarding any income received by residents of Uttlesford under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (known as War Pension Scheme prior to 6<sup>th</sup> April 2005) when calculating any means tested welfare benefits.

Therefore, Council is RESOLVED to:

- I. Support the Royal British Legion's 'Credit their Service Campaign' and write to the District's three MPs to encourage them to press to either introduce greater disregards at a national level for both lump sum capital payments or regular income payments under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, or else to grant local authorities further local discretion in this regard.
- II. Commend the Council's policy of maximising its discretion in regards to exempting military compensation from welfare benefit means tests and inform the Royal British Legion.
- III. Promote the discretion currently applied, in case there are any other Armed Forces Compensation Scheme recipients who might claim but have not done so because they assumed they will be rejected. These efforts should both through the Council's own Benefits Advisors, and our colleagues at Citizens Advice Uttlesford (who the Council funds to the tune of £140,000 this year), as well as through groups such as the British Legion, and of course directly through our contacts at Carver Barracks.