

Agenda Item 10e

AGENDA ITEM 10(e) THE FUTURE OF PORTSMOUTH DOCKYARD

Amendment

After paragraph ‘Our future as a city is dependent on..’ add:

“This council regrets, however, that the cash injection is all capital spend, with day-to-day revenue funding for defence expected to flatline at around £31.5bn per year, equating to a 2.4 per cent real terms cut through to 2024/25. This will inevitably mean more cuts to Her Majesty’s armed forces and British armed forces jobs”.

After the numbered list add:

“Whilst recognising the Prime Minister’s funding commitment last month is without any strategy, and there is no plan for how the money will be used to deal with the threats Britain faces, this Council urges Government to publish the Integrated Review without delay”.

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Stephen Morgan MP

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Tom Coles

Motion to therefore read:

The Royal Navy has played a major part in our city and our country’s history. It is a matter of great pride to Portsmouth’s citizens that we are not only ‘The Home of the Royal Navy’ but also home to the two aircraft carriers: HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales, the largest warships ever built by the British Government.

Portsmouth’s economy is heavily dependent on the Royal Navy and the many skilled jobs in the private sector paid for by the government through defence contracts. Companies like BAE Systems and Babcock employ thousands of people in the city and the surrounding area.

This council has a history of supporting the Royal Navy and fighting for Portsmouth’s Dockyard. Cllr Vernon-Jackson, as Leader of the city council, was key in putting the case for Portsmouth Naval Base in the 2013 Strategic Defence Review. Cllr Donna Jones has fought for the Type 31 contract to be signed and the ships to be base-ported in Portsmouth following the decommissioning of the Type 23s, as well as putting the case for Portsmouth in the mini-strategic defence review of 2015.

Our future as a city is dependent on the jobs and the skills the dockyard brings. The government has recently announced the largest increase in defence spending in 30 years. An additional £16.5Bn will be spent on defence of the UK over the next 4 years on top of a regular annual increase of 0.5% above inflation. The commitment to increase the Royal Navy surface fleet was a key part of the announcement including the confirmation of

government's ambition to deliver a new Type 32 class of frigate bringing the total number of frigates to 25 by the year 2035. As well as increasing the budget the Prime Minister Boris Johnson, has made a commitment that these new ships will be built in Britain. This will continue to secure the future of our nation, as well as the future of the Naval Base in Portsmouth.

This council regrets, however, that the cash injection is all capital spend, with day-to-day revenue funding for defence expected to flatline at around £31.5bn per year, equating to a 2.4 per cent real terms cut through to 2024/25.

This will inevitably mean more cuts to Her Majesty's armed forces and British armed forces jobs.

Therefore this council welcomes:

1. The increase in the defence budget announced by the government
2. The confirmation of the new Type 31 frigate class being delivered
3. The future plans for the new Type 32 frigates.
4. And places on record its thanks to the government for the commitment to defence spending over the next 4 years.

Whilst recognising the Prime Minister's funding commitment last month is without any strategy, and there is no plan for how the money will be used to deal with the threats Britain faces, this Council urges Government to publish the Integrated Review without delay.