

# MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018



## **Building the next Fleet Solid Support Ships in the UK**

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has announced its intentions to commission the build of three Fleet Solid Support ships (FSS). The ships will support the Carrier Strike capability, one of the nation's two strategic capabilities, by supplying vital supplies such as ammunition, spare parts, and engines for the F-35B Lightning II aircraft.

The expected in-service dates are from 2026-28, but the Council believes there are strong industrial reasons for pulling these dates forward. The three FSS vessels are expected to be 40-45,000 tonnes each and the programme, which is funded, will be circa £1-1.5bn.

Each of the three FSS vessels has specific tasks that will require differences in their design and build. All three are complex ships and each should be seen as a one-off vessel.

The National Shipbuilding Strategy (NSBS) makes it clear that the MoD does not regard these vessels in the same sense as its frigates and destroyers and intends to open the design and build of these specialist ships up to international competition, whilst only "encouraging" UK bids.

Council believes there is no reason why Government should not change that approach and opt to build the ships in the UK, as is the case with all other EU Governments.

Council will support the campaign which is to be launched in Plymouth on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Proposed – Councillor Tudor Evans (Via Email)  
Seconded Councillor Pete Smith (Via Email)