

MOTION ON NOTICE

24 October 2017



Defence cuts to Devonport

Recent speculation about the future of HMS Albion and HMS Bulwark, along with the relocation out of Plymouth of one thousand Royal Marines, has once again led to uncertainty about this vital part of our local economy, not to mention the defence of our country.

This Council believes that we should unite across all parties to fight for a better future for the defence industry in Plymouth and therefore agrees -

1. To urgently campaign for the retention of HMS Albion, HMS Bulwark and if it is not too late, HMS Ocean.
2. To reconvene as a matter of urgency the Devonport Taskforce, which had been set down a year ago as the future of the yard had seemed to be settled.
 - a. The Taskforce should prepare a compelling case for the base porting of the current and future frigate fleet at Devonport, representing the most cost effective and strategic location for those ships.
 - b. The Taskforce should prepare a compelling case for the retention of the Royal Marines in the City.
3. To urge all Plymouth MPs to join with us cross-party in this endeavour, and seek a meeting for a city delegation with the Secretary of State for Defence.
4. The Leader and the Leader of the opposition write jointly to all MPs in Devon and Cornwall raising our concerns about this proposal, the impact such a decision would have on the regional economy and seeking their support for this campaign.

Proposed by Councillor Tudor Evans

Seconded by Councillor Ian Bowyer

Dated 12 October 2017