

Report

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Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 May 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Recommitment to the Terms of the Armed Forces Community Covenant
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise members of proposals for the Council to recommit to the terms of an updated Armed Forces Community Covenant including participating in the work of a reformed First Base Group to take forward the terms of the new Covenant in Lanarkshire

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the proposed recommitment by the Council to the terms of an updated Armed Forces Community Covenant be approved;
- (2) that the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive sign the updated Covenant on the Council's behalf as part of the Armed Forces Day event on 23 June 2018; and
- (3) that proposals for the Council to participate in a relaunched pan-Lanarkshire Firm Base Group be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. On 5 March 2012 the Council together with a range of partners from NHS, the Military, the voluntary and charity sectors signed up to the terms of a Community Covenant for South Lanarkshire. The Leader and the Chief Executive signed the document on the Council's behalf.
- 3.2. The original Covenant document was set up as a statement of mutual support between the civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. The Covenant was intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant which outlined the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces at a local level.
- 3.3. In summary, the specific aims of the Armed Forces Community Covenant were to:-
 - ◆ encourage local communities to support the armed forces community in their areas

- ◆ nurture public understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the armed forces community
- ◆ recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the armed forces community
- ◆ encourage activities which help to integrate the armed forces community into local life
- ◆ encourage the armed forces community to help and support the wider community, whether through participation in events and joint projects, or other forms of engagement

3.4 To take the principles of the original covenant forward, a local group was set up under the co-ordination of the Army entitled Lanarkshire Firm Base which aimed to bring a range of organisations including North and South Lanarkshire Councils, the NHS, the Military, voluntary sector groups, appropriate charitable organisations and other Community Planning partners to work together to improve services and support to local veterans and their families by progressing the terms of the Covenant.

3.5 The Lanarkshire Firm Base met on a number of occasions and was initially chaired by the Army representative from 6 Scots. The group considered a number of areas impacting on the lives of veterans including how to access funding which was made available at a national level. Due however, to the changing needs of veterans and the growing number of organisations working with and supporting local veterans and their families, it is considered that there is an opportunity to relaunch the firm Base Group to provide an updated focus and ensure a coordinated approach to issues facing veterans.

4. Current Position

4.1. As stated above, it has been identified that there is a real need of more joined up support for veterans in Lanarkshire. This requirement has been raised by voluntary and charity organisation who work with veterans and their families locally.

4.2 It is considered that this work requires an updated multi-agency approach to be led by both North and South Lanarkshire Councils to bring together a reformed Lanarkshire Firm Base Group to take forward the terms of the updated Covenant with the overarching aim to improve the quality of support for veterans in Lanarkshire. This group would include Community Planning Partners, the military and groups from the Charity and Voluntary sectors with its first meeting taking place in mid to late June.

4.3 To underline and raise awareness of this support, it is proposed that the Council recommits to the Armed Forces Community Covenant by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive signing an updated version of the Covenant document and it is hoped that the official signing would coincide with the Council's Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Event which is scheduled to take place on 23 June 2018

5. Employee Implications

5.1. There are no employee implications in terms of this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. Other Implications

7.1. There are no significant issues in terms of risk or sustainability.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. There was no requirement to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment. Some initial discussion has taken place with appropriate groups on the formation of a new Firm Base Group.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

30 April 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

Working with and Respecting Others

Previous References

8 February 2012

List of Background Papers

Armed Forces Community Covenant document.

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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