

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....18th July 2019

1. Title of Item/Report

Armed Forces Community Covenant Update

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

The report detailed the position and progress made by the Council in relation to fulfilling the commitments made in the updated Armed Forces Community Covenant, which was adopted in October 2018.

It considered the vital role of the Council's Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group; the latest Stock Take regarding delivery of the Covenant 'Pillars'; the priorities of 2019/20 Covenant Action Plan; the relevant issues from the Defence Secretary's November 2018 Covenant report to Parliament; and the progress towards achieving the 'Gold' award from the MOD Employer Recognition Scheme.

Members were asked to note the contents of the report and the significant progress that was being made by the Council in fulfilling its commitments to the armed forces community, and the innovative way that this had been achieved primarily through the establishment and development of the pioneering Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group.

In order to ensure that the Covenant related activities and initiatives remained current and continue to support the local AF community, the Council would need to:

- continue to support the ongoing work of the Covenant Steering Group to review and update the Covenant Action Plan and carry out the annual Stock take of the covenant pillars;
- continue to monitoring and implementing appropriate responses to the information, guidance, research and reports provided through the various defence e-bulletins, e-newsletters and websites; and the Defence Secretary's annual report to Parliament;

By doing this the Council would be able to retain the Silver Award from

the MOD ERS; maintain progress towards the Gold Award; and continue working towards and maintaining a 'green' rating for delivery of the Covenant pillars.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

1. The contents of the report and the significant progress that is being made by the Council in fulfilling its commitments to the armed forces community as set out in the new Armed Forces Community Covenant as signed in November 2018 be noted.

2. The key areas of focus for the coming year as detailed in the report be agreed.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To ensure Cabinet and Council remain informed and involved in successful delivery of our local Armed Forces Community Covenant.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Nigel Cooke declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 14 - Armed Forces Community Covenant Update as he had a brother in the armed forces.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight, 26 July 2019.

Proper Officer  
22 July 2019