

## MINUTE EXTRACT

Cabinet Meeting.....4<sup>th</sup> September 2014

1. Title of Item/Report

Armed Forces Annual Report 2014

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report presented the second Annual Armed Forces Report to Council. It summarised the work to date with the Armed Forces and the progress so far on the implementation of Stockton's Armed Forces Community Covenant. It also outlined proposed projects for the coming year and included a statement from the Commanding Officer of 102 Battalion REME.

The report provided an overview of all measures taken to date to support the armed forces community through the Community Covenant in Stockton-on-Tees.

The Community Covenant acted as a catalyst to consolidate the work stakeholders were undertaking and set it within a policy framework. Last years' Annual Report identified the changes to policies and practice these were summarised and updated within the report.

The work undertaken as part of the Community Covenant acted as a reminder about some of the services that were already in existence e.g. Middlesbrough CAB provided a dedicated Money and Benefits advice service for veterans funded by the Royal British Legion (RBL) and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund (RAFBF). This was intended for people across Teesside (including Stockton). Workers undertook home visits or outreach appointments to SDAIS if necessary.

With regard to the next steps there had been achievements across each of the pillars of the Community Covenant but there was still some way to go. In the coming year work would be undertaken on the following priorities:-

- Develop Information and Intelligence sharing protocols in line with the findings from the regional Forces in Mind research
- Updating of the JSNA
- Further investigation of the needs of the Armed Forces Community including specialist Ex-Service personnel housing units across the Tees Valley, this work forms part of the Community Covenant Bid.
- Improving the Directories and signposting as a result of the work through the Community Covenant Bid.
- Investigate ways in which we can work with the Bishop of Durham and the Diocese to further enhance our Community Covenant

RECOMMENDED to Council that the progress report be noted and the on-going work to implement the actions be supported.