

MINUTE EXTRACT

Cabinet Meeting – 18 October 2018

1. Title of Item/Report

Armed Forces Covenant

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to the Armed Forces Covenant.

The report provided details of the position and the progress that had been made since Cabinet considered a review of the Council's commitment to its Armed Forces Community Covenant (AFCC) in October 2017 and recommended the adoption of a revised Covenant.

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 review the Defence Secretary's annual Armed Forces Covenant report to Parliament each December;
- continue to review the guidance provided to local authorities on the MOD's newly launched AF Covenant website;
- review the cross-Government 'Veterans' Strategy, which would be published November 2018.
- review the work of the Government's 'Armed Forces Covenant and Veterans' Board' which was launched in October 2017.
- review the Covenant-funded 'Map of Need' which was commissioned in April 2017 to provide an evidence-based analysis of what Veterans and Armed Forces families' services were being sought and where. The Council was awaiting its completion and publication. This may help to improve the profile of the local armed forces community and its needs.
- review the update of the SBC Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for veterans'.

By doing this the Council should be able to retain the Silver Award from the MOD ERS; begin to make progress towards the Gold Award; and continue working towards and maintaining a 'green' rating for delivery of the Covenant pillars.

The 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day was a fitting reminder of the debt the nation owed to the Armed Forces community. A number of projects and events to mark this historic occasion were being organised by the Council. This made it a very opportune time for the Council to commit itself to a new Armed Forces Covenant.

RESOLVED that an annual report be received highlighting the work being carried out to fulfil the commitments in the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the revised Covenant to Full Council (replacing the original Covenant signed in 2012) be adopted.