

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

29 NOVEMBER 2018

ARMED FORCES COVENANT UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To make Members aware of the signature of the Armed Forces Covenant at the 'Great War Commemoration Service and Armed Forces Covenant Signing' event and the updated 'Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan'.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The Armed Forces Covenant works to ensure Armed Forces personnel, both current and past, and their families, receive equal treatment and equal access to facilities and services. It also seeks to encourage communities to develop a relationship with the service community in their area. Newark & Sherwood District Council signed the Community Covenant (since renamed the Armed Forces Covenant) on 16 July 2013.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 Nottinghamshire County Council hosted the 'Great War Commemoration Service and Armed Forces Covenant Signing' on 6 November 2018 at Southwell Minster. 2018 marks 100 years since the end of the Great War. To commemorate the history and sacrifice of Nottinghamshire people, the Lord-Lieutenant, Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council, Lord Mayor of Nottingham and the Dean of Southwell Minster, alongside representatives from all local authorities in Nottinghamshire, attended the Commemoration Service. A revised version of the 'Armed Forces Covenant' was also signed on the day by every local authority in Nottinghamshire to reaffirm Nottinghamshire's commitment to the Armed Forces Community as part of the commemorations.
- 3.2 The revised Covenant is attached as **Appendix One**. The two Covenants will sit alongside each other. The Armed Forces Covenant signed on 6 November 2018 marks the overarching commitment shared across the county whilst the Community Covenant signed in 2013 specifies the aims of the Covenant in Newark & Sherwood.
- 3.3 In light of this the 'Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan' has been refreshed and is attached as **Appendix Two**. This Action Plan will be used to focus work across the district and will be reviewed and updated annually. The action plan will be shared with the Nottinghamshire Civil and Military Partnership Board to aid the creation of a county wide action plan.
- 3.4 Action 1.1 in the Armed Forces Action Plan is the "Protection of the War Memorials of Newark & Sherwood". In light of this commitment a review of all war memorials within Newark & Sherwood was undertaken and this available as a background paper to this report. This information will be used to support the listing of all Newark & Sherwood memorials through Historic England.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 The Armed Forces Covenant aims to ensure Armed Forces personnel and their families receive equal treatment and equal access to facilities and services.

5.0 Financial Implications (FIN18-19/4644)

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Comments of Director

6.1 The Armed Forces Covenant signed on 6 November 2018 marks the overarching commitment shared across the county whilst the Community Covenant signed in 2013 specifies the aims of the Covenant in Newark & Sherwood.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- a) **the Revised Armed Forces Covenant signed on 6 November 2018 be noted; and**
- b) **the updated Newark & Sherwood Armed Forces Action Plan be noted.**

Reason for Recommendations

To fulfil the Council's commitment to the Armed Forces community.

Background Papers

Community Covenant 2013

Armed Forces Covenant 2018

Survey of Outdoor War Memorials - November 2018

For further information please contact Ella Brady on Ext 5279

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