

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

Progress Report on Armed Forces Covenant

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Cabinet on progress on the Armed Forces Covenant.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The North Lincolnshire Armed Forces Community Covenant is an agreement of a voluntary pledge of mutual support between a civilian community and its local armed forces. Its aim is to strengthen links between the community and local armed forces personnel, their families and service veterans. The covenant aims to:

- Encourage local communities to support the armed forces community in their areas.
- Nurture public understanding and awareness about the issues affecting the armed forces community.
- Recognise and remember sacrifices made by the armed forces.
- Promote activities which help integrate the armed forces community into local life.
- Encourage the armed forces to help and support the wider community through participation in joint projects and other forms of engagement.

2.2 North Lincolnshire Council has undertaken a considerable amount of work in 2018 to implement the work of the Covenant and provide support to local organisations and charities who work with young people, veterans and their families. Examples of the work undertaken are:

Covenant re-signing and flag raising

The covenant was re-signed on 18th June 2018 demonstrating our commitment to the local Armed Forces community. It was signed by North Lincolnshire Council and key partners including the NHS, Humberside Fire & Rescue, Humberside Police, Ongo, VANL and the North Lincolnshire Veterans Community Hub as well as senior representatives from the tri-service military. It was signed at the annual flag raising event to mark the start of Armed Forces week.

Identified Armed Forces Champion, Lead Officer and Dedicated Covenant Officer

North Lincolnshire Council has an identified Armed Forces Covenant Champion, a senior lead officer and funds a dedicated Covenant Officer post to work on embedding the Covenant locally.

Armed Forces Day/Committee

North Lincolnshire had a very successful Armed Forces Day 2018 with over 3000 people in attendance thanks to a very enthusiastic committee. The support from local Military units, Veterans and their families as well as local charities and organisations was fantastic and we hope to build on that for 2019.

Regional Conference

Our regional work with Hull City Council, East Riding Council, Doncaster Council and North East Lincolnshire Council goes from strength to strength. We held a regional conference with our local authority partners, with over 200 attendees to raise awareness of the Covenant, this partnership continues with the council's focus on outward communications of the Covenant.

Veterans Hub

North Lincolnshire Council continues to support the NL Veterans Hub by providing a building for the volunteer committee to operate from, and a recent bid written by the Covenant officer and the Hub team was successful in attracting over £9000 to fund new equipment and building costs ensuring that the Hub can develop.

MOD Employers Recognition Scheme- Bronze and Silver Award

North Lincolnshire Council were very proud to be awarded Bronze in the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition scheme, in acknowledgment of our support to the Armed Forces Community, we hope to support many other local organisations in their applications.

The Council is working with the Defence Relationship Manager for this area, to submit our application for the Silver Award, the next round of submission is required for April 2019.

Funding for WW1 Commemorations and Remembrance Day

North Lincolnshire Council has set aside specific grant funding as part of our Community Grant programme, for local groups to commemorate the centenary of the ending of World War I. Remembrance Parades and acts of worship took place all across North Lincolnshire, with the main event taking place in Scunthorpe. The event was very well attended and included a contingent of troops from the garrison at Catterick, as well as the local Reserve Unit, Army Cadets, Sea Cadets and the Air Training Core as well as representatives from the Royal British Legion and other

local Military Associations. The Parade organised by the Royal British Legion had around 250 people and was watched by a considerable crowd along the route as well as gathering at the Cenotaph in Scunthorpe

There But Not There Campaign

North Lincolnshire Council has purchased two 'Tommy' silhouettes, one of which stands in the Civic Centre, Scunthorpe and one that is loaned out to the wider community for commemorative events. A further nine local organisations have been successful in their bids for funded Perspex silhouettes

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 This report is to provide Cabinet with an update on the progress made in relation to the Implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant work will continue in 2019 including:

- **Armed Forces Covenant Forum and Pathways** A North Lincolnshire Armed Forces forum will be established in 2018, chaired by the council's Armed Forces Covenant champion. Decision makers from our partner organisations who signed the North Lincolnshire Covenant will be invited to deliver on the Covenant pathways of Health, Housing, Education, Employment and Welfare.
- **ERS Silver Award** North Lincolnshire Council will be submitting our bid for the Employer Recognition Scheme's Silver Award, in April 2019, supported by our local military partners at 146 Divisional Support Company REME.
- **Funding for Welfare Project** The council are making a case with the regional partnership to fund a specific welfare project, which will support our local Armed Forces Community in finding financial aid and welfare support.
- **Training package delivery** Alongside our regional partners, the council is delivering five 'Military Human' training sessions in partnership with York St John University and two Mental Health First Aid courses. These will train front line practitioners who come across veterans in their day-to-day work, and give them the knowledge and skills to work with them appropriately. We aim to have 75 frontline staff trained by March 2019

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Cabinet are asked to support the continued work and continue to raise the profile of the Armed Forces Covenant through the planned work in 2018/19

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 The Council received a share of the Regional MOD Grant of £35,000 in 2018 to Implement Covenant Activities. All additional Covenant activities are undertaken from within existing budgets

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 Individual elements of work are subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment as required. There are no IIA implications relating to this report.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 None

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet notes the progress, which has been made in implementing the Armed Forces Covenant and continues to support the work to be undertaken in 2018/19

8.2 It is further recommended that the Cabinet raises the profile of the Covenant work and promotes the Armed Forces Covenant at all relevant opportunities.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Civic Centre
Ashby Road
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN16 1AB

Author: Stuart Minto – Principal Officer Safer Neighbourhoods

Date: 12th November 2018

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None