

NOTICE OF MEETING

Cabinet Member Signing

TUESDAY, 29TH OCTOBER, 2013 at 15:00 HRS - CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, WOOD GREEN, N22 8LE.

Cabinet Member: Councillor Claire Kober, Leader of the Council.

AGENDA

1. URGENT BUSINESS

The Leader will advise of any items she has agreed to take as urgent business.

2. ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT (PAGES 1 - 12)

(Report of the Director of Strategy and Performance). The report seeks agreement from the Leader to the Armed Forces Community Covenant. This report will go forward to Cabinet and Full Council for noting and endorsement.

3. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any new items of urgent business admitted under Item 1 above.

David McNulty
Head Local Democracy & Member Services
5th Floor
River Park House
225 High Road
Wood Green
London N22 8HQ

Xanthe Barker
Principal Committee Coordinator
Tel: 020 8489 2957
Email: xanthe.barker@haringey.gov.uk

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Haringey Council

Report for:	Leader decision	Item Number:	
Title:	Armed Forces Community Covenant		
Report Authorised by:	Zina Etheridge, Director of Strategy and Performance		
Lead Officer:	Eve Pelekanos, Head of Strategy and Business Intelligence		
Ward(s) affected:	All	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:	Non Key

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 The national [Armed Forces Community Covenant](#) initiative was launched by the government in May 2011. A Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community.
- 1.2 Haringey has not yet committed to signing up to a Covenant. The Ministry of Defence has contacted the council to ask when Haringey will be signing up to this initiative.
- 1.3 This report:
 - provides information about the current services and support that the council offers to service and ex service personnel and the potential support it could offer through a Community Covenant;
 - asks the Leader to commit the council to signing a Community Covenant with the armed forces.

2. Cabinet Member introduction

- 2.1 Some service personnel and their families need greater support in accessing local public services. For example, families may move frequently around the country, and in doing so children may miss school admissions dates. For some health matters, moving to a different health authority may mean that particular treatments are harder to access. Some veterans



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may experience homelessness, unemployment or mental illness for which support from local agencies is needed.

2.2 I am committed to helping service and ex-service personnel and their families access the support they need. An Armed Forces Community Covenant is a demonstration of this commitment, and I support this initiative wholeheartedly.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that:

- The Leader commits the council to signing an Armed Forces Community Covenant.
- The Leader approves the draft community covenant document – see Appendix A
- Should the Leader commit the council to signing a Community Covenant, this decision is recommended to Cabinet and Full Council for noting and endorsement.
- Should the Leader commit the council to signing a Community Covenant, that a multi agency working group is set up to agree a community covenant action plan

4. Alternative options considered

4.1 The council does not have to sign up to a Community Covenant – it is not a legal requirement. However, most other local authorities have committed to signing a Covenant.

5. Background information

5.1 The Community Covenant is designed as a **statement of intent. It is not a legal contract.** The Covenant aims to:

- encourage local communities to support the armed forces community in their areas and to nurture public understanding and awareness among the public of issues affecting the armed forces community
- recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the armed forces community
- encourage activities which help to integrate the armed forces community into local life
- to encourage the armed forces community to help and support the wider community, whether through participation in events and joint projects, or other forms of engagement

5.2 A covenant should set out what the local area seeks to achieve on particular issues and, where possible, will be signed by representatives from all parts of the community, in particular public service providers. It is for the local area to decide on the issues it wants to support, depending on the need of the local armed forces community. The government has issued a sample [pledge and guidance notes](#) for local authorities wishing to sign up to a covenant.

5.3 Most covenants pledge to provide civic support in the following areas (wording used in covenants):

- Adult support to cadet forces
- Enabling recruitment



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- Allowing work and training
- Housing
- School transition for service children
- Medical and welfare pathways
- Veterans
- Post operational home-coming parades and support to residents

- 5.4 Most pledge to provide military support in the following areas (wording used in covenants):
- Aid in civil emergencies as permitted by legislation
 - Periodic access to our estate and its facilities
 - Representation at celebrations, commemorations and parades
 - Sign Service Presentation teams
 - Sharing with partner organisations
- 5.5 Along with the armed forces, key personnel from the borough have been invited to co-sign the covenant, including representatives from the police, fire brigade, HAVCO and Haringey Clinical Commissioning Group as well as The Mayor of Haringey, the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and the Deputy Lieutenant for Haringey.

Armed Forces in Haringey

- 5.6 There is no category for the Armed Forces in the Census 2011 list. From Ministry of Defence (MOD) data:
- Based on a count done by the Ministry of Defence in January 2013, there are 10 Army officers living in Haringey, and no Navy and no Air Force officers (rounded to the nearest 10 by the MOD).
 - As at March 2011 80 people living in Haringey were in receipt of payment under the War Pensions Scheme (numbers rounded by MOD)
 - As at July 2011, 85 people living in Haringey were in receipt of payment under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (numbers rounded by MOD)

NB. Individuals can be in receipt of payments under more than one pension scheme simultaneously so it is not possible to assess the exact number of those in receipt of a pension living in Haringey.

- 5.7 However, research conducted by the Royal British Legion in 2005 indicates a veteran population of around 3,700.
- 5.8 Even considering this, the number of Armed Services personnel in Haringey is low, as it is in many London boroughs. Some boroughs, however, have much larger numbers, due to the location of barracks – e.g. Westminster, Hillingdon, Hounslow.

6. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

- 6.1 As the current level of service / ex-service personnel living in the borough is low, the financial impact on the council of continuing with the existing provisions or indeed agreeing to any of the possible new proposals looks to be low. However, it must be borne in mind, that numbers could increase which could then lead to higher financial costs to the council which would be difficult to control if the Covenant amended existing policies.



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7. Head of Legal Services and legal implications

- 7.1 The adoption of an Armed Forces Covenant is not an express statutory function and as such there is no formal route for the decision either by the Cabinet or the Full Council. Reporting the adoption of the covenant to the Cabinet and Full Council will assist in ensuring cross-party commitment to its terms.

There are no specific legal implications arising from the recommendations in the report.

8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

- 8.1 This report has no specific implications for the council's public sector equality duty as Armed Forces personnel as a group are not a protected characteristic within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010.

9. Head of Procurement Comments

- 9.1 N/A

10. Policy Implications

- 10.1 The policy implications of signing up to a covenant would depend upon the specific areas of support which the council and partners offered to the local armed services community.

11. Use of Appendices

Appendix A: Draft Haringey Community Covenant



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HARINGEY, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
PUBLIC, CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS, THE CIVILIAN
COMMUNITY OF HARINGEY

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN THE **LONDON BOROUGH OF
HARINGEY**

**We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together to
honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant.**



Haringey Council

Signatories

(This page will be updated following confirmation of signatories)

Signed:
Name:
Position Held:

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SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families
working and residing in **the London Borough of Haringey**

And

The civilian community of the London Borough of Haringey

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

- 2.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.
- 2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Haringey and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in Haringey.
- 2.3 For Haringey Council and partner organisations, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work on other initiatives such as the Welfare Pathway.
- 2.4 For the Armed Forces community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces community to help their local community.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

Aims of the Community Covenant

- 3.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant complements the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community
- 3.2 It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces community and make it easier for Service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the MOD, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at a local level.

- 3.3 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and the Armed Forces community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

SECTION 4: MEASURES

- 4.1 The Armed Forces will work together with Haringey Council and partners through the London Borough of Haringey Armed Forces Community Covenant Working Group in order to achieve the general aims identified at Section 3 above. Specifically, the signatories to this covenant agreed to:
- 4.1.1 Work with the armed forces to explore how service and ex-service personnel, and their families can be better supported across a range of services including, housing, employment, education and health.
 - 4.1.2 Explore opportunities for raising awareness and celebrating the contribution that the armed forces make to Haringey and the country as a whole, and ensure armed services representation at appropriate community events across the borough.
 - 4.1.3 Engage with the armed services to establish baseline data for the number of service and ex-service personnel in the borough.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Email address: covenant-mailbox@mod.uk
Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team
Zone D, 6th Floor
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name: Martin French
Title: Civil Engagement Manager
Telephone: 020 7414 2024
Email: martin.french822@mod.uk

Address: HQ London District
Horse Guards
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AX

Haringey Council

Contact Name: Nick Walkley
Title: Chief Executive
Telephone: 0208 356 2648
Email: nick.walkley@haringey.gov.uk

Address: Haringey Council
River Park House
225 High Road
Wood Green
N22 8HQ

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom
Her Majesty's Government

and

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of
the Crown

and their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

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