

Executive Board – 20 October 2020

Subject:	Nottingham City Council Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan
Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):	Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director People
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Rebecca Langton, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Highways and Strategic Transport
Report author and contact details:	Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director of People
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Nigel Cooke, Head of One Nottingham Lorel Manders, Partnership Manager
Subject to call-in:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Criteria for Key Decision:	
(a) <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision	
and/or	
(b) Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Type of expenditure: <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital	
Total value of the decision: No additional cost	
Wards affected: All	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s): 24th September	
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:	
Nottingham People	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Living in Nottingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Growing Nottingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Respect for Nottingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Serving Nottingham Better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):	
The Armed Forces Covenant and Action Plan will enable the city council to prove an equal service for members of the Armed Forces Community who live in Nottingham. It evidences the support that Nottingham City Council and the people of Nottingham have for the UK Armed forces and the contribution that they have made and continue to make to freedom and security of Britain.	
Exempt information:	
None	
Recommendation(s):	
1. To reconfirm Nottingham City Council's support for the Armed Forces Community Covenant.	
2 To agree the action plan and its implementation,	
3 To note that the government has committed to introduce legislation, during the current parliament, in respect of the further incorporation of the Armed Forces Covenant into law.	

1 Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 The recommendations will enable the Council to fulfil the commitments it has made in entering in to the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

2 Background (including outcomes of consultation)

- 2.1 Nottingham City Council adopted the Armed Forces Covenant in 2013. In that same year Nottingham hosted the National Armed Forces Day, in a day of

spectacular parades, fly pasts and exhibitions from all military services. Behind the spectacle there was, and remains, a serious and mainstream purpose to local authorities' adoption of the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

- 2.2 In recent years we have commemorated major events and anniversaries, including the conclusion of the two World wars in Europe and in Asia and the anniversary of the Bosnian conflict. We have recognised the ongoing role that the UK armed forces continue to play in ongoing conflicts and in peace keeping missions across the globe. The council also recognises the contribution that the military have made in non-combat situations, for instance in supporting the management of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- 2.3 Nottingham City Council has previously made a commitment to the Armed Forces Community Covenant for Nottinghamshire. This is an opportunity to reconfirm that commitment and to produce and share an action plan which makes the commitment real and makes transparent the valuable role that the council plays.
- 2.4 The definition of the Armed Forces Community includes current serving personnel and their families, former personnel and their families (veterans) and reservists (who are frequently employed by councils).
- 2.5 Once the Executive boards has agreed the plan it will be shared with members of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Civil and Military Partnership Board and made publicly available on My Nottingham.
- 2.6 It is of note that the government is introducing legislative changes for local authorities' relationship with the armed forces community. The purpose of new legislation is to continue to remove disadvantage faced by Armed Forces Personnel and Veterans. Current policy proposals refer to the possible introduction of law to ensure that due regard is written into all policy and strategy documents in the areas of Housing/Homelessness, Education and Health. This would apply to Local Authorities, Health Bodies and other Education and Housing organisations. Nottingham City Council complies with the current proposal through this action plan but will nevertheless keep the position under review.

3 Other options considered in making recommendations

The other option considered, and rejected was to not reconfirm support for the Armed Forces Community Covenant. This was rejected because the Council has previously agreed to support the Covenant, in line with all other local authorities in England. Reconfirming the support in this way simply formalises the Covenant Action Plan.

4 Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

The action plan and specific items have not been quantified in terms of the financial impact, as details will not be known until the time of implementation of the specific actions. However, all costs will need to be maintained within the MTFP base budget provision that already exists across departments for this area of work. Budget holder approval will need to be sought by the relevant action lead ahead of any costs being incurred, to ensure expenditure is maintained within these budgets and that no financial pressure occurs as a result of anything contained within this paper.

Phil Gretton, Strategic Finance Business Partner (Strategy & Resources)
21 September 2020.

5 Legal and Procurement colleague comments (including risk management issues, and legal, Crime and Disorder Act and procurement implications)

The recommendations set out in this report raise no significant legal issues and are supported.

Malcolm R. Townroe, Director of Legal and Governance – 2 October 2020

6 Strategic Assets & Property colleague comments (for decisions relating to all property assets and associated infrastructure)

6.1 There are no implications in this area.

7 Social value considerations

7.1 None.

8 Regard to the NHS Constitution

8.1 the Integrated Care Partnership, the Clinical Commissioning Group and Nottingham City Cares Partnership are partners of the council in this area.

9 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

9.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because the Armed Forces Covenant and the Action Plan will be delivered by named service areas within the council, each of which will be responsible for services which have due regard to the enquiries and activities relating to the Armed Forces Community. Some of those areas will conduct their own EIAs. Included within the attached action plan are specific pieces of work which will review the armed forces community elements of the council commitment to equality of access in service and employment.

10 List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

None

11 Published documents referred to in this report

Armed Forces Community Covenant for Nottinghamshire.