

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

22 JANUARY 2013

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS

ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek members approval to move forward towards the sign up to the Community Covenant Pledge.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Members support further work to progress actions which will support the delivery of the principles contained within the Community Covenant Pledge.**
- 2.2 **Members approve the establishment of a task and finish group in line with the terms of reference identified in para 3.6 of this report.**
- 2.3 **Members instruct officers to bring a report back to the 20 March 2013 Community & Social Affairs Committee with progress and view to sign the Community Covenant Pledge.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 Background

- 3.2 A 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.
- 3.3 The aim of the Community Covenant is to encourage local communities to support the Service community in the area and nurture understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community.
- 3.4 Many people have become involved in supporting the Service community, through Service charities or more recently by participating in Armed Forces Day. They have shown their support in a variety of ways including fundraising, military celebrations, open days and family fun days. The Community Covenant scheme aims to build upon this support.
- 3.5 Melton has the Army Defence Animal Centre as well as a few surrounding service bases with a number of families and personnel likely to be living in the Borough. In addition, it would be a good opportunity to sign up in order to build partnerships with the Armed Forces, so that come 2015 and the celebration of 70 years since the end of World War 2, we can promote and celebrate the good work Melton Borough Council and other partners have done as well as commemorating those who have served their Queen and Country.
- 3.6 To ensure that we start to progress some of the principles set out in the pledge, members are asked to consider the establishment of a Task & Finish group with the terms of reference as follows: 'To identify and deliver key actions that deliver

the principles set out in the Armed Forces Community Covenant', with specific actions to include:

- Identify the individuals/families living in Melton Borough
- Engage with the Armed Forces in Melton – gain a contact
- Understand the levels of engagement at County and with other Districts
- The Melton Community Partnership to have an Armed Forces representative on board
- To conduct some workshops (armed forces, businesses, health, education, voluntary sector, district and county)
- Form an action plan from the workshops to be approved and implemented
- The Task Group will report back to this Committee in March with a progress and update.

Councillor Simon Lumley has advised officers that he would wish to actively participate in the task group and its programme of work.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Melton community covenant statement relates to the Melton Corporate Plan. Some of the clear priorities that relate to this strategy are:

People

- Supporting people and businesses through the economic downturn
- Encouraging people to take an active role in their communities

Place

- Increasing public confidence & pride in neighbourhoods.
- Help provide a stock of housing accommodation that meets the needs of the community.

Well Run Council

- To provide high performing services that are efficient and meet customers' needs

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 At this stage there are no financial or other resource implications as a direct result of this report. As the action plan is proposed to be developed in conjunction with the Armed Forces and other relevant agencies there may be the requirement to request a supplementary estimate to provide resources to help deliver on the pledge.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 There are no other legal implications directly arising from this report.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no direct links in this report; however, links within the Corporate Plan and community safety have been identified in 4.1, 7.1 and 7.3.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 No initial Equalities issues have been identified; however the Task and Finish group will undertake an EIA as part of its action planning.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 The risks are considered in the table below:

Probability

↓

Very High A				
High B				
Significant C				
Low D		2		
Very Low E	1			
Almost Impossible F				
	IV Negligible	III Marginal	II Critical	I Catastrophic

→ **Impact**

Risk No.	Description
1	Community Covenant is not signed.
2	Funding requirements needed to support extra provision of services or campaigns.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no climate change issues directly arising from this report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 Consultation was held with the Strategic Management Team on 14 January 2013. The pledge is in alignment with current policies and priorities:

- Melton’s Corporate Plan 2011 - 2015
- Melton Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2013

Future consultation is required.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards affected.

Contact Officer: Emma Trahearn - Community (Policy) Officer
Harry Rai – Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods

Date: 16/01/2013

Appendices: Appendix A - Armed Forces Community Covenant, Guidance Notes.
Appendix B - Community Covenant Pledge

Background Papers: None

Reference X:/Cttee, Council & Sub Cttees/CSA/2012-13/22-01-13/Armed Forces Community Covenant