

## COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

17 SEPTEMBER 2014

### REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS

#### ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

##### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update members on the progress achieved so far through the Melton Community Covenant.

##### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Members note the progress that has been achieved and approve the future action to be taken forward by the Armed Forces Community Covenant Networking group, Appendix C.**

##### 3.0 KEY ISSUES

###### 3.1 Background

- 3.2 On the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013 the Community and Social Affairs Committee approved the Melton Community Covenant Pledge. This 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, more details in Appendix A.

- 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. The Melton Community Covenant has provided some good opportunity to build partnerships with the Armed Forces and other partners such as the Royal British Legion and Job Centre Plus, in order to support a variety of needs the Armed Forces Communities both servicing and ex personnel and the families can receive.

- 3.6 We are in an important timeframe with many events, research projects and commemorative ceremonies will be taking place during the next four years 2014 to 2018, marking the 100th anniversary of the First World War. The Melton Community Covenant provides civilian and forces communities to work together, apply for grants, support their veteran communities, make a difference, and increase awareness of the poignant historical actions of all in the First World War.

3.7 The Armed Forces Networking Group was tasked with progressing the specific key areas in the Community Covenant:

- Consider ex service personnel for housing
- Consider the mental wellbeing services available
- Encourage organisations to support with the employment and skills of the ex service personnel
- Offer incentives/discounts for current and ex service personnel.

The networking group is coordinated by Councillor Simon Lumley who was approved by member to take forward to role as Armed Forces Champion. Appendix C highlights the achievements that have been undertaken by this networking group and the next steps.

#### 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.

5.2 With a Community Covenant it means there are financial resources from the MOD that can be accessed by the Network Group in support of the programme of work.

#### 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.

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	Members are dissatisfied with the progress made so far.
2	Funding requirements needed to support extra provision of services or campaigns are not available.

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

The network group will be charged to lead on any further consultation as and when required.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards affected.

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Date: 06/08/2013

Appendices: Appendix A - Armed Forces Community Covenant, Guidance Notes.  
Appendix B – Melton’s Community Covenant  
Appendix C – Armed Forces Community Covenant report

Reference X:/Cttee, Council & Sub Cttees/CSA/