
Report to: Cabinet
Council

Date of Meeting: 29 March 2012
12th April 2012

Subject: Appointment of Member Champion for the Armed Forces

Report of: Director of Corporate Commissioning **Wards Affected:** All

Is this a Key Decision? No **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No

Exempt/Confidential

No

Purpose/Summary

To appoint the Council's Member Champion for the Armed Forces and note the proposals for the development of an Armed Forces Community Covenant.

Recommendation(s)

Cabinet:

- (1) That the Cabinet nominate Councillor Brennan to be the Member Champion for the Armed Forces;
- (2) note the proposals for the development of an Armed Forces Community Covenant.

Council:

That Councillor Brennan be appointed as the Member Champion for the Armed Forces and be designated as the Council's signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant once agreed.

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

	<u>Corporate Objective</u>	<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
3	Environmental Sustainability		√	
4	Health and Well-Being		√	
5	Children and Young People		√	
6	Creating Safe Communities		√	
7	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	√		

Reasons for the Recommendation:

The appointment of an Armed Forces Champion is a pre-requisite for the development of an Armed Forces Community Covenant, which is required before any bid for funding is made.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

None arising from this report

(B) Capital Costs

None arising from this report

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal		
Human Resources		
Equality		
1.	No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact on Service Delivery:

None at this stage

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance & ICT (FD1452/12) has been consulted and has no comments to make on this report as there are no financial consequences as a result of it. The Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD 801/12) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

Are there any other options available for consideration? No

Implementation Date for the Decision Immediately following the Council meeting.

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Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Armed Forces Member Champion

- 1.1. Meetings have been held with the Commanding Officer of 42 (North West) Brigade, to discuss proposals for each Local Authority within the North West area to appoint a 'Armed Forces Champion or Focal Point' from among its elected members. The appointment of a Forces Champion is the first step in developing a Armed Forces Community Covenant, which needs to be in place before a bid for funding can be accessed.
- 1.2 This matter has been discussed by the Leaders Group and it was proposed that Councillor Brennan be nominated as the Member Champion.

2. 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 and is designed to capture the various initiatives and commitments made by local public services and third sector organisations. Funding of £30m has been made available from the Government for the next four years to support action by local communities to support service men and women and veterans.
- 2.2 About 20% of the Army is recruited from the North West, with a similar figure for the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. There are about 5,000 servicemen, regular and active reserve, stationed in the North West. Whilst there are no regular units in Merseyside, there are TA units in Bootle, Norris Green, Aigburth, Allerton, Gateacre, Huyton, St. Helens and Birkenhead. With their families they make up a population of about 4,000.
- 2.3 Evidence suggests that about 92% of servicemen find employment, accommodation and make the early transition without issue within 6 months of discharge. Most have made a prepared and considered transition although this is likely to be made more complex by the Armed Forces redundancy programme over the next few years.
- 2.4 Determining the number of veterans in the region is difficult but is estimated at between 500,000 and 1,000,000 veterans. The veterans community is complex and changing. It consists of both 70 year old Korean War veterans, 50 year old Falkland War veterans and 24 year old Afghanistan War veterans. Their experiences and needs are different.
- 2.5 In parallel, Sefton Council for Voluntary Service have initiated some work to plan for a partnership to progress any bid for funding which will involve representatives of the Council, One Vision Housing, the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA), the North West Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, the Veterans Association, the Royal British Legion and veterans involved in charity work in the Borough.