

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	8 th October 2014
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	Local Authority Community Covenant (motion by Councillor Ross Thomson)
REPORT NUMBER	OCE/14/038
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report addresses the notice of motion by Councillor Ross Thomson in relation to the Local Authority Community Covenant and indicates next steps to be taken on the matters raised.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council notes the content of the report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The report has no financial implications at this stage. Future reports will detail the financial implications for the Council of any proposals arising through discussion with interested parties.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The report has no other implications at this stage. As with finance above, future reports will address the implications of any emerging proposals.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

At its meeting of 20 August 2014 the Council had before it a notice of motion by Councillor Thomson in the following terms:-

That this Council:-

- i. restates its commitment to the Local Authority Community Covenant which ensure that Aberdeen City Council supports the local armed forces community;

- ii. recognises the enormous contribution that the armed forces and their families make and the sacrifices that the armed forces and their families make every day for the safety and security of our country;
- iii. to recognise the contribution made by our armed forces, agrees to request a report examining what more Aberdeen City Council can do to support our armed forces and veterans community across the services it provides;
- iv. instructs officers to engage with neighbouring authorities on their allocation of housing to members of the armed forces;
- v. instructs officers to meet with Legion Scotland and to establish a protocol for an ongoing relationship between the Council, Legion Scotland and other pertinent organisations; and
- vi. congratulates and welcomes the Armed services Advice Project (ASAP) provided by the Scottish Citizens Advice Bureau which is the focal point for the City's armed forces community for access to advice, information and support.

The Council resolved:-

- i. to instruct officers to submit a report to the next Council meeting; and
- ii. to accept the offer from ASAP, as intimated by Councillor Yuill, to deliver a presentation to members at a future meeting.

At its meeting of 22 August 2012 the Council approved a motion by the Lord Provost in the following terms:-

That this Council works with the armed forces, veterans' groups, health and social care providers, the business community and other local bodies to develop a Community Covenant for Aberdeen.

The Lord Provost and the Chief Executive signed the resulting Community Covenant on behalf of the Council on 30th January 2013. The other signatories to the Covenant are Aberdeen's Armed Forces Community, the Highland Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, Veterans Scotland, Royal British Legion Scotland, Combat Stress, SaBRE Supporting Britain's Reservists and Employers, NHS Grampian and Jobcentre Plus.

With regard to Councillor Thomson's motion, it is intended that representatives of Royal British Legion Scotland, other signatories to the Covenant and other relevant organisations be invited to meet with the Lord Provost as the Council's Veterans Champion both to discuss the envisaged protocol and what additional actions the Council might take in order to support the armed forces and veterans community in Aberdeen. A further report will then be brought to a future meeting of the Council.

6. IMPACT

The subject matter of the matter relates both to the Smarter Living and Smarter People facets of the policy document *Aberdeen – the Smarter City* and by extension to the Council's delivery of the Single Outcome Agreement for the City.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The report responds to the terms of a notice of motion.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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