

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	10 September 2018
REPORT TITLE	Refreshed Community Covenant and Covenant with Armed Forces
REPORT NUMBER	COM/18/114
DIRECTOR	Andy McDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Derek McGowan
REPORT AUTHOR	Elisabeth Manners
TERMS OF REFERENCE	Introduction - 6 (previous Council decision)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks the approval of the refreshed Community Covenant with the Armed Forces.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council:-

- 2.1 Approves the refreshed Community Covenant with Armed Forces;
- 2.2 Agrees that the Lord Provost remains as the Armed Forces Champion;
- 2.3 Instructs the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to ensure up to 1% of our new 2,000 Council houses are offered to those leaving the armed forces. With up to a further 0.5% being adapted for those injured in service; and
- 2.4 Agrees to establish an Advisory Working Group, with its purpose being to ensure the commitments contained in the Community Covenant are met, appoints from their number three Councillors (2 Administration/1 Opposition) to the Advisory Working Group and invites the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to appoint three officers from Education Services, Housing Services and Social Work Services to join the Advisory Working Group.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A motion was submitted by Councillor Ross Thomson on 20 August 2014 to restate Aberdeen City Council's commitment to the Local Authority Community Covenant and report on what the Council can do to support the armed forces in Aberdeen.
- 3.2 On 11 October 2017, Aberdeen City Council instructed the Chief Executive to work with relevant groups representative of the armed forces community and its interests, the business community and Community Planning Partners to develop a refreshed Armed Forces Covenant for the City, delegating authority to the Chief Executive to sign the Covenant along with the Lord Provost on behalf of the Council.
- 3.3 Discussions have taken place between the Council and Community Planning Partners, including representatives of the Aberdeen Prospers Economic Partnership to explore the opportunity for a joint Community Covenant between Partners. However, it was felt that to agree a generic set of commitments that all Partners could commit to would minimise the value of the Covenant. A number of Community Planning partners, including Aberdeen City Council, NHS Grampian and Police Scotland, already have their own Covenant with the Armed Forces which set out the specific measures that respective partners have committed to in the supporting the Armed Forces.
- 3.4 Officers from the Council have engaged with the Armed Forces to refresh our existing Covenant. The Armed Forces continue to recognise the Community Covenant that was entered into with the Council in 2012. However, they welcome the opportunity to reaffirm this allegiance by signing a refreshed Community Covenant for 2018.
- 3.5 Aberdeen City Council demonstrates its support to the Armed Forces Covenant through a number of provisions in the Covenant which include naming the Lord Provost as the Armed Forces Champion along with the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment as a named day-to-day contact.
- 3.6 Other areas have been identified to support the Armed Forces, including provisions around engaging with local communities and offering Housing and employability support to anyone currently in the Armed Forces and veterans.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	N/A		
Legal	N/A		
Employee	N/A		
Customer	N/A		
Environment	N/A		
Technology	N/A		
Reputational	Not fulfilling the actions as outlined in the Covenant	L	A bi-annual meeting with representatives from the Council and the Armed Forces will be set up to ensure these are delivered. An internal action plan will be agreed to ensure outcomes are achieved.

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous Economy	Members of the armed forces community have a valuable contribution to make to the economy of the City and the refreshed Armed Forces Covenant will address how best to ensure they have the opportunity to make that contribution.
Prosperous People	The Armed Forces Covenant is based on the premise that those who serve or have served and their families deserve respect, support and fair treatment. They should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. The refreshed Covenant

	will seek to continue the application of this ethos in Aberdeen.
Prosperous Place	Supporting the integration of armed forces personnel and veterans into local communities will enhance the diversity of the City.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Workforce	The promotion of employment opportunities with Armed Forces personnel and veterans will ensure that the Council has the benefit of a wide range of skills.
Partnerships and Alliances	The refreshed Covenant will strengthen the work and partnership we have with the Armed Forces.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Not required
Privacy Impact Assessment	Not required
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not applicable

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Local Authority Community Covenant \(motion by Councillor Ross Thompson\), Aberdeen City Council, 24 June 2015](#)

[Local Authority Community Covenant, Aberdeen City Council, 11 October 2017](#)

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Refreshed Armed Forces Community Covenant

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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