

MOTION ON THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

Council notes:

The Armed Forces Covenant, adopted by this Council in 2012, is a “promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly”. The Covenant commits our public agencies to ensuring that the armed forces community do not face disadvantage in accessing public services by reason of their service to our country.

Like all local authorities, the Borough Council supports the Armed Forces Community Covenant, and implements it in our practices and policies.

With the support of the Ministry of Defence, the Forces in Mind Trust (FiMT) and the Local Government Association published 'Our Community – Our Covenant', a report on research commissioned into ways of improving the delivery of Covenant obligations across different localities.

In June 2019 the Minister For Defence, People and Veterans wrote to every local Authority asking them to appoint an Armed Forces Covenant Member Champion.

Council believes:

- (1) That we should have regard to the work that has been done since 2012 to deliver on the Armed Forces Covenant, including the latest updates to the 'Our Community – Our Covenant' report, and it is right that we direct the work of Members and officers to meet its recommendations.
- (2) That we should collaborate closely with other local authorities and national Government to ensure that our commitment to our ex-servicemen and women is discharged to a consistent, high standard.
- (3) In order to do so, that we should appoint formally a Member to be the Council's Armed Forces Covenant Champion, and an officer to act as a single point-of-contact within the organisation for Covenant implementation.

Council resolves:

- (1) To reaffirm our support for the Armed Forces Community Covenant.
- (2) To appoint an Armed Forces Covenant Member Champion.
- (3) Request that the Chief Executive appoint an Armed Forces Covenant Officer Champion, who shall be the officer point-of-contact within the Council for issues relating to the Covenant.

Proposed by:

Councillor Simon Tagg

Seconded by

Councillor Stephen Sweeney .