

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND ASSURANCE CABINET MEMBER

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet Member approval for the relaunching and re-signing of the Armed Forces Covenant.
- 1.2 To Seek Cabinet Member approval for the placing of a Great War memorial at Civic Centre to commemorate the First World War and promote the Armed Forces Covenant.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire is committed to supporting the Armed Forces and Veterans. 2018 marks a very important year in the history of the UK with the 100 year commemoration since the end of the First World War as well as the anniversary of the founding of the RAF 100 years ago.
- 2.2 The North Lincolnshire Armed Forces Community Covenant is an agreement of a voluntary pledge of mutual support between a civilian community and its local armed forces. Its aim is to strengthen links between the community and local armed forces personnel, their families and service veterans. The covenant aims to:
 - Encourage local communities to support the armed forces community in their areas.
 - Nurture public understanding and awareness about the issues affecting the armed forces community.
 - Recognise and remember sacrifices made by the armed forces.
 - Promote activities which help integrate the armed forces community into local life.
 - Encourage the armed forces to help and support the wider community through participation in events, joint projects and other forms of engagement.
- 2.3 The Covenant is a publically made commitment to support our Armed Forces and a document stating this is prepared and signed before being published. Local partnerships sign with Armed Forces Units and

other key stakeholders such as Police, Fire & Rescue, Health and the Voluntary and Community Sector, led by Local Authorities.

- 2.4 The previous Covenant in North Lincolnshire was launched and signed in 2012 it is therefore timely that a relaunch and re-signing ceremony take place this year. It is proposed that the Armed Forces Community Covenant re-signing will take place following the annual flag raising ceremony on June 18th 2018 at the Civic Centre. It will bring together key partners in a display of commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant.
- 2.5 In March 2018, North Lincolnshire Council achieved the Bronze award for the MOD's Employer Recognition Scheme. Following meetings with Cpt Wayne Eynon, 146 Divisional Support Company, Budd VC Barracks and the Regional Director for Defence Relationship Management (DRM), Cpt Eynon has agreed to nominate North Lincolnshire Council for the Silver Award in April 2019. However, the council will work towards the standards of Gold, with a view to gaining this in the future, DRM are supportive of this. The Community Covenant re-signing will be the starting point for this work and publically demonstrate North Lincolnshire Council as a 'force friendly' organisation.
- 2.6 The Covenant relaunch will form part of North Lincolnshire Council's application for the Silver and Gold Awards for the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme, and celebrate the current Bronze award. It will mark the start of a number of events in June that will promote North Lincolnshire Council's commitment to its Armed Forces Community.
- 2.7 The Leader of the Council will be invited to sign the Covenant on behalf of the Council along with Armed Forces Champions from local Partners including Humberside Fire & Rescue, Department of Work & Pensions, as well as military representatives from 146 Divisional Support Company and 4th Infantry Brigade.
- 2.8 The Flag raising and Signing Ceremony will be attended by a wide range of partners and it is proposed that all reservists and veterans work for North Lincolnshire Council will be invited to attend demonstrating the council's commitment to its own Armed Forces community.
- 2.9 To further promote the work of the Covenant and Armed Forces day it is proposed to place a commemorative statue at Civic Centre. The Armistice Project for the Charity "Remembered" has created the "Tommy" silhouette which has received national publicity. The statue is a 6ft aluminium frame life size sculpture (Appendix1).
- 2.10 The proposal is to purchase this sculpture to achieve maximum impact and create community pride in North Lincolnshire The first location is

suggested to be outside the Civic Centre on Flag Raising Day (18th June 2018) and this will be communicated to the general public to encourage greater attendance. It will then be used at the Armed Forces Day as a photo opportunity for those attending. The silhouette will be complimented by an appropriate flower display to also celebrate Armed Forces Day.

- 2.11 It is proposed to take the silhouette to a number of villages and towns across North Lincolnshire where there are rolls of honour for the fallen. This will enable residents and visitors to the area to pay their respect and a photo opportunity to remember. Parish and Town Councils will be contacted to arrange for the silhouette to be positioned for a short time. The final resting place for “Tommy” at the end of 2018 could be either the North Lincolnshire Museum in Scunthorpe or Normanby Hall

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Cabinet Member is asked for approval for the council to re-sign the Armed Forces Covenant.
- 3.2 Cabinet Member to approve the placing of the Commemorative Statue at the Civic Centre and locations around the area.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Council is committed to supporting our Armed Forces and Veterans and the re-signing of the Covenant sends a strong message that this is the case. The proposal to hold the re-signing as part of the Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Ceremony provides an excellent opportunity to promote the Covenant across the authority with our partners and the local community.
- 4.2 2018 is a very important year in the history of the UK and the proposed commemorative statute will raise the profile of the Armed Forces Covenant as well as provide an opportunity for local communities to get involved in both paying respects and in promoting the Armed Forces Covenant.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Finance

The signing ceremony and associated work will be met within existing budgets. The “Tommy” statue costs £625.00 and this cost will be met from the MOD grant received by the Council to promote the Armed Forces Covenant.

5.2 Staffing

It is requested that the council's Armed Forces community, made up of employed Veteran's, Reservists and Cadet Volunteers would be released from their council duties for the parade, flag raising and Covenant re-signing on the morning of June 18th 2018.

Staffing requirements for placing the statue will be met from within existing resources.

5.3 Property

Depending on the final permanent placing of the statue, planning permission may be required. This will be considered when the final decision on placing is agreed.

5.4 I.T.

There are no I.T. implications to this report.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 Statutory

The Council are required to promote the duties associated with the Armed Forces Covenant.

6.2 Environmental

The placing of the statue at Civic Centre will be accompanied by an appropriate flower display at Civic Centre, this will enhance the local environment and promote the Covenant at the same time.

6.3 Diversity

There are no diversity implications to this report.

6.4 Section 17 – Crime and Disorder

There are no Section 17 Crime and Disorder issues associated with this report.

6.5 Risk/Other

There are no other implications in this report.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The proposals have been discussed with the MOD Regional Director for Defence Relationship Management (DRM) who is in agreement with the proposals.
- 7.2 The proposals have also been discussed at the Armed Forces Day Committee and agreed.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Cabinet Member approves the proposal for the re-signing and relaunch of the Armed Forces Covenant on June 18th at Civic Centre.
- 8.2 Cabinet Member approve the proposal to place the Commemorative statue at Civic Centre and subsequent tour of the statue around North Lincolnshire.

DIRECTOR: CHILDREN & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

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Ashby Road
Scunthorpe

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Appendix 1
Photograph of “Tommy” Sculpture – Armistice Project – Remembered.

