

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 12 MARCH 2012

REPORT ON: ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 78-2012

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To recommend that the Council adopt the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- i) Dundee City Council adopt the Armed Forces Community Covenant as set out in Appendix 1
- ii) the Chief Executive is remitted to arrange a suitable event at which the Covenant will be signed and launched
- iii) the Chief Executive is remitted to discuss and, if appropriate, submit an application to the Community Covenant Grant Scheme in conjunction with the Dundee and Angus Firm Base Working Group

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Adopting the Covenant provides an opportunity to apply for grants to support projects which strengthen ties between members of the Armed Forces community and the wider community in which they live. There are no other financial implications for the City Council.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 A Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement, at a local level, the Armed Forces Covenant which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces.

4.2 The objectives of the Armed Forces Community Covenant are to:

- encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces community in their area
- nurture public understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community
- recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces Community
- encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life
- encourage the Armed Forces Community to help and support the wider community, whether through participation in events and joint projects or through other forms of engagement

- 4.3 The objectives of the Covenant are supported by the Community Covenant Grant Scheme which has been established to provide financial support to projects, at the local level, which strengthen ties or mutual understanding between members of the Armed Forces Community and the wider community in which they live. Examples of projects funded to date include children's playgrounds; projects to improve the health, welfare or financial literacy of service personnel, veterans and their families; exhibitions and oral history projects; projects to help integrate service and ex-service personnel in the community; and events involving the armed forces and local young people.
- 4.4 A draft Armed Forces Community Covenant for Dundee is attached as Appendix 1, and Committee is asked to:
- approve the adoption of the Covenant by the Council
 - remit the Chief Executive to arrange a suitable event at which the Covenant will be signed and launched
 - remit the Chief Executive to discuss and, if appropriate, submit an application to the Community Covenant Grant Scheme in conjunction with the Dundee and Angus Firm Base Working Group, which is the regular liaison forum between local authorities, charities and the military in Dundee and Angus. The next deadline for bids to the scheme is 24 June 2012

5. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty and Risk Management. Among the measures taken as a result of the Covenant would be an undertaking to promote services such as benefit and money advice; housing, leisure and social care services; and employability and training services, all of which could have a positive impact on poverty in relation to ex-service personnel and their families.

6. **CONSULTATIONS**

The Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Director of Finance have been consulted. Representatives of the Armed Forces, Ex-service organisations, NHS Tayside, the Voluntary sector and Business sector have also been consulted and confirmed their willingness to sign the Covenant.

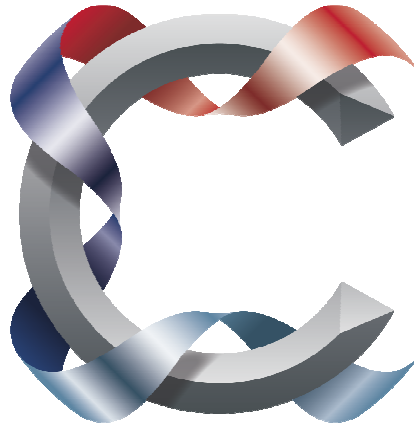
7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

David K Dorward
Chief Executive

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08/05/2012



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL,
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY AND
BUSINESS SECTORS,
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF DUNDEE

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN DUNDEE

**We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together
to honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant.**

Signatories

Signed:

Name: Lt Col Richard Chadwick

Position held: Commanding Officer
225 Medical Regiment

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces Community

Signed:

Name: Col Martin Gibson
Veterans Scotland

Signed on behalf of Armed Forces Charities

Signed:

Name: Victor Herd

Position held: President,
Combined Ex Services
Association

Signed on behalf of Ex-service Personnel in Dundee

Signed:

Name: Alfred Gibbons

Position held: President

Signed on behalf of the Royal British Legion Scotland

Signed:

Name: Chris Lundie

Position held: President, Dundee and Angus
Chamber of Commerce

Signed on behalf of the Business and Commercial Sector

Signed:

Name: John R Letford

Position held: Lord Provost

Signed on behalf of Dundee City Council

Signed:

Name: David K Dorward
Chief Executive

Signed on behalf of Dundee City Council

Signed:

Name: Morna Wilson

Position held: Chief Executive
Dundee Voluntary Action

Signed on behalf of the Voluntary Sector

Signed:

Name: Sandy Watson

Position held: Chairman

Signed on behalf of NHS Tayside

SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Dundee

and

Dundee City Council

and

NHS Tayside

and

The Charitable and Voluntary Sector

and

The Business and Commercial Sector

and

Other members of the civilian community in Dundee

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE 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. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.
- 2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Dundee and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel, their families and widow(er)s in Dundee.
- 2.3 For Dundee City Council and partner organisations, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work on other initiatives.
- 2.4 For the Armed Forces Community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces Community to help their local community.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

Aims of the Community Covenant

- 3.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant complements the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces Community
- 3.2 It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces community and make it easier for Service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the Ministry of Defence, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.
- 3.3 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement, and the Armed Forces Community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

SECTION 4: MEASURES

Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside will promote services to Armed Forces Services personnel, Veterans and their families to ensure uptake of:

- Welfare benefits and access to benefit and money advice services
- Housing options, including allocations and homelessness
- Education and access to leisure and youth facilities
- Health and social care services including mental health support, substance misuse and access to relevant health professionals
- Employability and training services
- Referral options to other appropriate non-Council or health services

Dundee Voluntary Action on behalf of the Voluntary Gateway will:

- Signpost Armed Forces personnel and their families to volunteering and voluntary run services
- Provide advice and guidance to other third sector service-based organisations

Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce will:

- Raise awareness of this Covenant amongst the business sector and encourage promotion of employment and training for Service personnel, Veterans and their families
- Engage with the Armed Forces to identify further opportunities to assist Forces personnel, Veterans and their families

The impacts of this Community Covenant will be closely monitored as the relationship with the Armed Forces is developed, with a view to ensuring that all appropriate assistance required by Armed Forces personnel, Veterans and their families is provided.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Contact Name: Lisa Harper
 Title: DCDS (Pers) Sec Covenant 1
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 Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team
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 Ministry of Defence
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 Whitehall
 London
 SW1A 2HB

In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name: Lt Col Richard Chadwick
 Title: Commanding Officer, 225 Medical Regiment
 Telephone: 0131 3104768
 Address: Oliver Barracks, Dalkeith Road, Dundee DD4 7DL

Dundee City Council

Contact Name: David Dorward
 Title: Chief Executive
 Telephone: 01382 434201
 Address: 21 City Square, Dundee DD1 3BY

Voluntary Sector

Contact Name: Morna Wilson
 Title: Chief Executive, Dundee Voluntary Action
 Telephone: 01382 305731
 Address: Number Ten, 10 Constitution Road, Dundee DD1 1LL

Armed Forces Charities

Contact Name: Bob McFarlane
 Title: General Secretary, Veterans Scotland
 Telephone: 0131 5501569
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THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom
Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of
the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.