

Report of the Chief Executive

**UPDATED ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT ACTION PLAN
2021/23**

1. Purpose of report

To update Committee on progress and seek approval for the new Armed Forces Community Covenant Action Plan.

2. Background

The Military Covenant or Armed Forces Covenant is a term introduced in 2000 to refer to the mutual obligations between the nation and its Armed Forces. It is an informal understanding, rather than a legally enforceable deal, but it is nevertheless treated with great seriousness within the services. Organisations which sign up to the Covenant pledge that they acknowledge and understand that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives.

The Armed Forces Community includes regular personnel; reservists; veterans and families and the immediate family of service personnel who have died, whether or not the death was connected with the Service.

The Covenant sets a framework for how the veterans Community can expect to be treated, but it is not possible to specify in detail how it should be applied in every case.

Broxtowe Borough Council signed up to the Armed Forces Community Covenant in January 2012. The Authority is also signed up to The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) which encourages employers to support defence and inspire others to do the same. The scheme recognises employer organisations that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to defence and the armed forces community, and align their values with the Armed Forces Covenant.

Construction has started on the veteran's accommodation which will be completed later this year and a local lettings policy is in place to ensure appropriate nominations are made for the properties. The Authorities recruitment policy has also been amended to ensure veterans who meet the essential criteria are guaranteed an interview and this scheme is being promoted through veteran's networks.

A copy of the latest action plan is attached in the appendix.

Recommendation

Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the new Armed Forces Community Covenant Action Plan 2021/23 be approved and to NOTE progress.

Background papers:Nil