

## Report of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health

**ARMED FORCES ACTION PLAN 2023 – 2026**1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the new Armed Forces Action Plan.

2. Recommendation

**Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the Armed Forces Action Plan 2023 – 2026 be approved.**

3. Detail

The Armed Forces Action Plan 2023 – 2026 supports the Boroughs Military Covenant or Armed Forces Covenant. Introduced in 2000 the Covenant refers 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; families of regular personnel; 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.

The Borough Council support of the covenant has resulted in changes to many of the Councils policies. Armed forces personnel, their families and veterans can be awarded an additional level of priority under certain circumstances. Five units of accommodation for veterans has been constructed 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 as a mark of respect and gratitude for ex-service men with no known family the Borough

Council will bear the cost of an officiant at welfare funerals for ex-service veterans from the Borough.

The Armed Forces Action Plan 2023 – 26 is attached at the appendix.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications at this stage with any costs being contained within existing budgets. Any significant budget implications going forward, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no direct legal implication arising from this report

6. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

No comments.

7. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:  
none received

8. Data Protection Compliance Implications

There are no data compliance issues.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

This is not a change in policy so does not require an equality impact assessment.

10. Background Papers

Nil.