

Decision Number: 4(2013/14)

Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement

The Local Authority (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

The Decision:

The Council signs an Armed Forces Community Covenant Agreement with local Armed Forces on Armed Forces Day, Monday 24 June. Local Armed Forces include Royal British Legion branches and cadet organisations.

Date the decision was made: 10 June 2013

Reason for Decision *(please set out in full)*

- The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a local community or local authority and its local Armed Forces community. The agreement sets out how signatories to the agreement will support each other. A draft agreement, produced by the Government, is set out at Appendix A.
- So far, over 150 Councils across the country have signed an Agreement, and most of the local authorities in Kent have either signed an Agreement or are planning to consult Members on signing an Agreement. Where there are no regular armed forces within a local authority area, veterans' organisations and cadet organisations act as the main armed forces contacts.
- The Agreement aims to encourage the local authority to offer support to the local armed forces and make it easier for service personnel, families and veterans to access help and support available from the MOD, statutory providers and the voluntary sector.
- The Agreement 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.
- The Armed Forces Community Covenant Guidance Notes, attached as Appendix B, set out examples of suggested actions for local authorities. These are not compulsory.
- The Armed Forces Community Covenant Guidance Notes says that the Agreement is a two-way document and sets out suggested ways that Armed Forces could support local communities:
 - Getting involved in community regeneration projects;
 - Taking part in educational, sporting or community events.
- Local authorities who have signed an Agreement will have access to the Community Covenant Grant Scheme. The scheme is intended to support projects which strengthen ties between local communities and the Armed Forces community. Match funding is strongly encouraged and applications must be signed by both the local authority and the local Armed Forces.

(For Democratic Services use)

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Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Member when making the Decision:

None.

Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and/or Directors/Heads of Service Consulted

Head of Community Development – Mrs. Lesley Bowles

Details of any conflicts of interest

a) declared by any executive member who is consulted by the Decision Taker

None

b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict

None

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| Decision taken by: | Cabinet Member for Economic and Community Development |
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| Signed by Portfolio Holder |  |
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| Record made by: | Charlie Shaddocke. |
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| Date of record: | 10/6/13 |
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