

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTSIDE BODY REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 23

meeting date: 12 SEPT 2017
 title: ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT REPORT 2017
 submitted by: COUNCILLOR JIM WHITE

1 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this annual report is to inform and update Committee of any changes to Section 4 of the Ribble Valley Borough Council Armed Forces Community Covenant as at 12 SEPTEMBER 2017, and to update the Committee on any other changes in relation to the Armed Forces Community Covenant

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – to treat everyone equally and ensure that access to services is available to all. To engage with all our communities to ensure we deliver services to meet customer needs and expectations.
- Corporate Priorities – to seek to continually improve, ensuring that council services are fit for purpose and customer focused.
- Other Considerations – to meet our ongoing Commitment to the Armed Forces Community in the Ribble Valley.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 On the 24th July 2013 The Borough Council with partners from the Military, Private and Charitable Sectors signed an Armed Forces Community Covenant.

3 COMMUNITY COVENANT SECTION 4

3.1 Section 4 of the Community Covenant requests that the Armed Forces Champion – Cllr White co-ordinates and keeps the Council informed of ongoing issues and Initiatives relating to the Covenant.

3.2 Section 4 of the Community Covenant remains as a workable document, and all members, partners and officers are requested to have input into it to make it meaningful, and fully representative for the Armed Forces Community in the Ribble Valley. Additions since the last report in OCT 2016 are:

- A. On 06 May 2017 the Mayor Cllr Holgate MBE unveiled a plaque and dedicated a tree at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, on behalf of the residents of the Ribble Valley to all those who have given service and sacrifice in the Armed Forces. The event was attended by Cllrs, members of the RBL and residents of the Ribble Valley. Cllr Holgate also laid Wreaths at the Household Division Memorial to a family member and a former resident of Whalley, in addition Cllr Holgate and Cllrs also paid

respects to the Duke of Lancaster's memorial. It is believed that the Ribble Valley Borough Council are the first Borough Council to unveil a plaque at the NMA.

- B. On the 30th March 2017 the Veterans in the Community Charity gave a brief at the Parish Councils Liaison Committee. The Charity outlined what they do and how they are helping Veterans. As a result of the briefing all Parish Councils now receive a Bi monthly copy and update of the Charities newsletter.
- C. The "Veterans Gateway" went live in June 2017. This is a new Government initiative to assist all former servicemen and women. It can be accessed by phone, email and social media. It is also open to Councils and other organisations to access to assist former service personnel in settling in Civilian Life.
<https://www.veteransgateway.org.uk/>
- D. In June 17 an approach was made to the Armed Forces Champion to support and assist Mr Simon Wallis Headteacher of Barnacre Road School Longridge for an event he is putting on at Preston Guild Hall on 11/11/18. Members may recall a similar event in 2014 in which Mr Wallis and the Longridge Cluster of schools put a show on at the Guild Hall and raised over £14,000 for the RBL. Details of this event will be advertised at a later date, however it is not envisaged that RVBC will be required to have any input or action. The Theme will be WW1 and the event will follow other events planned for this date in Lancashire and around the Country.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – the suggestions made in this report may impact on an element of officer time.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – none identified.
- Political – none identified.
- Reputation – the Council has a reputation for supporting the Armed Forces.
- Equality & Diversity – the Council should be consistent in its considerations of all groups.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

5.1 Note the Contents of this report.

Cllr J White