

REPORT OF THE LEADER

'FULFILLING OBLIGATIONS TO SUPPORT MILITARY AND DEFENCE PERSONNEL' FORUM EVENT, LONDON, 2 MARCH 2016

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for the attendance of the Member Champion for Armed Forces (Councillor Ian Campbell) and a relevant officer at a Forum about the Armed Forces Community Covenant being organised by Inside Government.

Information and Advice

2. An update report on the work which the Council is undertaking to implement the Armed Forces Community Covenant was submitted to Full Council on 17 September 2015. In approving the report, Council appointed Councillor Ian Campbell as the Member Champion for Armed Forces.
3. The organisation Inside Government is hosting a Forum event at the Hallam Conference Centre, Hallam Street, Central London on 2 March 2016.
4. The forum aims to provide delegates with the knowledge and expertise to effectively champion the armed services community and improve provision of services for service personnel in their localities.
5. Keynote speeches will include:-
 - The successful delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant from James Franklin, Head of the Armed Forces Covenant Team, Ministry of Defence;
 - Local Government commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant from Michael King, Chief Executive of the Local Government Ombudsman, on ensuring;
 - The role of the Voluntary Sector in supporting the Armed Forces; and
 - Meeting the needs of the Armed Forces community through Healthcare excellence from Dave Rutter, Head of Armed Forces and Veterans Health, Department of Health.
6. Case Studies will also be presented on the following subjects:-
 - Providing Excellent Standards of Mental Health Provision to the Armed Service Community;
 - Helping Ex-Servicemen and Servicewomen Throughout the Criminal Justice System;

- Supporting the Service Community Through Effective Housing Provision as a Local Authority;
 - Promoting Positive Outcomes in Education for Service Children through the Service Premium;
 - Giving Armed Forces Families the specialised support they need in the Voluntary Sector.
7. It is proposed that the Member Champion for Armed Forces and the Council's lead Community Engagement Officer attend the event.
8. The Forum will provide an opportunity for the Council's representatives to feed back on the successful Civilian Life event organised by the County Council on 12 November 2015.

Other Options Considered

9. To not send officer and Member delegates to this Forum but this would mean missing an opportunity to share best practice and learning, from a wide range of speakers and delegates, on this key issue.

Reasons for Recommendation

10. To ensure the County Council is appropriately represented at this event in order to share best practice and learning.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

9. The cost for two delegate places at the Forum will be £740 (£385 for 1st delegate, £355 for 2nd delegate). There will also be associated travelling costs. The costs for the Member Champion will come from the relevant Democratic Services budget with the officer costs funded separately.

RECOMMENDATION

That approval be given for the attendance of the Member Champion for Armed Forces and one relevant officer at the 'Fulfilling Obligations to Support Military and Defence Personnel' Forum event in London on 2 March 2016.

COUNCILLOR ALAN RHODES
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB – 20/1/16)

Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (RWK – 01/02/16)

The financial implications are set out in paragraph 12 of the report.

Background Papers

- Electronic flyer for the event from Inside Government.
- Report to Full Council – Armed Forces Community Covenant - 17 September 2015 - [Armed Forces Community Covenant](#) and minutes of that meeting (published).

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All