
ARMED FORCES CHAMPION

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council previously continued consideration of a proposal to appoint an Armed Forces Champion to take on the task of ensuring that local service provision is mindful of the needs of Service Veterans. This report invites the Council to give further consideration to the matter.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To consider whether to appoint a Champion and if so advised to report to a future meeting on the role and remit.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 The Council previously continued consideration as to whether to appoint an Armed Forces Champion to allow further investigations with interested parties on the role that such a champion might undertake. Inquiries were made and of the responses received it was clear that the role could be seen as a positive step. It was unclear however as to the role that might be adopted given the diverse geography of the Council area, and the existing role of related organisations. There was also a possible overlap with other existing engagement with the community and events that recognise the service and sacrifice of the armed forces.
- 3.2 If the Council were to appoint a Veterans' Champion it would need to be clear what the remit and role was of that Champion and therefore it would be appropriate to report back to a future meeting of the Council on this issue.
- 3.3 There would need to be a clear division between the civic role of the Provost which has historically taken the lead for the Council in Remembrance Sunday arrangements, in more recent times engaging with local community groups in marking armed forces week with gala celebrations and flag raising, and that of the possible role of the Champion in scrutinising how Council services can be responsive to the needs of ex servicemen.

4. IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Policy – None at this time
- 4.2 Financial – not able to ascertain any additional cost that might arise at this time.

- 4.3 Legal – None
- 4.4 Personnel - None
- 4.5 Equal Opportunities - None
- 4.6 Customer service - the champions role could be used to tailor council services to better meet the needs of ex servicemen who may have additional needs

For further information contact Charles Reppke on extension 4192
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