

ARGYLL AND BUTE COMMUNITY COVENANT PARTNERSHIP

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 At the Council meeting held on 28 June 2012, Councillor Maurice Corry was appointed as the Armed Forces Champion (AFC). A further report was tabled at the Council meeting on 20 September 2012 which set out a proposed remit for the AFC and an overview of the current activities within Argyll and Bute with regard to supporting the armed forces community. This report also included details of the Community Covenant Grant Scheme that exists and the Council agreed to “*appoint the Argyll and Bute Community Covenant Partnership to consider local applications for funding to the Community Covenant Grant Scheme*”. In terms of setting up the CCP the following was also agreed;

- Appoint the Leader of the Council and Provost
- Appoint Councillor Maurice Corry
- Seek nominations for the signatories of the Community Covenant through the CPP (in respect of NHS Highland and Argyll Voluntary Action) and invite Commodore Wareham to be a member of the Community Covenant Partnership

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The CPP Management Committee agree that a nomination be sought from NHS Highland and Argyll Voluntary Action to sit on the Community Covenant Partnership to consider local applications for funding to the Community Covenant Grant Scheme.

3.0 DETAIL

3.1 Background

Community Covenant Pledge

3.1.1 At the Council meeting held on 28 June 2012 members appointed Councillor Maurice Corry as AFC for Argyll and Bute. In addition, the Council considered a report which set out the aim of the Community Covenant Pledge and recommended that Argyll and Bute Council, along with NHS Highland and Argyll Voluntary Action agree to support the Armed Forces Community within Argyll and Bute by signing the Argyll and Bute Armed Forces Community Covenant.

3.1.2 The Council noted the contents of the report tabled, recognised the sacrifice made by members of the Armed Forces, particularly those who have given the most, and made a commitment to supporting current and former Armed Forces

personnel and their families working and residing in Argyll and Bute. The Covenant was duly signed by Commodore Mike P Wareham, Derek Leslie (NHS Highland), Gillian Barclay (Argyll Voluntary Action), and the Leader of the Council.

3.1.3 The Community Covenant is intended to complement, at a local level, the Armed Forces Covenant and outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces.

3.1.4 The signing of the Community Covenant for Argyll and Bute presents an opportunity for the Council and partner organisations to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to consider positive measures to provide active support to the Armed Forces Community.

Community Covenant Grant Scheme

3.1.5 A Community Covenant Grant Scheme with funding of £30M over 4 years has been launched by the Ministry of Defence (16 August 2011). The aim of the scheme is to put the Community Covenant into action and strengthen the ties and mutual understanding between the Armed Forces and the communities in which they work, are based, or live.

3.1.6 An application for funding of between £100 and £250,000 can be submitted by any part of the community and might include volunteer groups, charities, and public bodies such as schools. Applications should meet at least one of the aims of the Community Covenant and the following are provided as examples of possible projects;

- Projects that bring together Armed Forces dependents with others in the local community through community activities in rural, isolated areas
- One-off activities, such as an activity camp involving the Armed Forces and local young people
- An exhibition at a local library/town hall etc, explaining what a local Armed Forces unit has recently been doing
- An “oral history” project, where the local branch of a regimental association, locally based Armed Forces personnel or a specific group of Armed Forces personnel recorded their experiences or discussed them with local school children
- Enhancement of existing community facilities used by both local and Armed Forces communities to enable new activities that will lead to greater integration

3.1.7 Bids should be considered in the first instance by the Community Covenant Partnership (those parties who signed the covenant as detailed at 3.1.2) at a local level. Bids that the Partnership are happy to endorse will be submitted for consideration by the Community Covenant Grant Panel, which is led by MOD officials and other outside members (e.g. a representative of local government, Service charities, families federations) includes representation from. The panel meet on a quarterly basis in March, June, September and December and consider each bid against a set of criteria.

3.1.8 Once funds are agreed, funding for the project will be released from MOD to the Local Authority who will manage the finances. Where sums are large or the project is dependent on particular milestones being met, there may be a phased release of funds.

4.0 **SUMMARY**

- 4.1 In order to progress the Argyll and Bute Community Covenant Partnership, this paper seeks nominations from NHS Highland and Argyll Voluntary Action to sit on the Partnership, along with our appointed elected members and representation from the MOD.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy – in accordance with Community Covenant
- 5.2 Financial - none
- 5.3 Legal - none
- 5.4 HR – none
- 5.5 Equalities – none
- 5.6 Risk - none
- 5.7 Customer Service – potential positive impact on our customers, particularly those within our Armed Forces community

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