

Cabinet



Date of meeting:	13 November 2023
Title of Report:	Renewal of Armed Forces Covenant
Lead Member:	Councillor Chris Penberthy
Lead Strategic Director:	Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)
Author:	Alan Knott – Policy and Intelligence Advisor.
Contact Email:	Alan.Knott@Plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	AFC/001
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to request Cabinet approval for the renewal of the Armed Forces Covenant by Plymouth City Council. The Armed Forces Community Covenant no longer exists in its original form. This is because it was an agreement signed by multiple organisations. The new Armed Forces Covenant is an individual organisation's commitment.

Whilst a new Covenant was signed by Cabinet in October 2022, a revised Covenant is proposed which this Administration believes better fits the Council's mission statement and the priorities of the wider partnership. This Administration has reflected on what was heard at the Armed Forces Covenant select committee scrutiny session in November 2022, has listened to organisations and partners in the Armed Forces Community and further, is aligning the new Covenant to the new Corporate Plan priorities. Together, this will strengthen Plymouth City Council's approach to the Armed Forces Covenant. It is therefore recommended that Cabinet approves the renewal proposal so that the Council can demonstrate its individual commitment, not only to serving members of the armed forces, but to veterans, reservists and their families.

Recommendations and Reasons

Cabinet approval for the renewal of the Armed Forces Covenant by Plymouth City Council.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Plymouth City Council originally signed the Armed Forces Community Covenant in 2012. It is not possible to continue registration of Community Covenants like Plymouth's 2012 commitment because they are signed by multiple organisations. Therefore, organisations like Plymouth City Council must now choose to refresh their commitment individually. Whilst this was done in October 2022 the new Administration have incorporated Community commitments the City Council wish to support.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

We provide strong community leadership and the role the Council plays in supporting the Armed Forces Covenant is fundamental to this element of the Corporate Plan.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Approval of the Armed Forces Covenant does not constitute a specific resource commitment. Future decisions, particularly in the areas of Housing, Education and Health may have particular implications: these however, will be considered on a case by case basis.

Financial Risks

None

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None specific to the recommendations of this report.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

The Armed Forces Act 2021 received Royal Assent in December 2021 and new guidance enacted this legislation in November 2022. The new Armed Forces Act 2021 creates a legal obligation on relevant bodies, when exercising relevant statutory functions and to have due regard to the three principles of the Armed Forces Covenant. This is the Armed Forces Covenant Duty. The signing of the Plymouth Armed Forces Covenant helps implement this legislation into Council policy.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Renewal of Armed Forces Covenant report							
B	Plymouth City Council Armed Forces Covenant agreement 2023							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	DJN. 23.24. 134	Leg	LS/00 0013 12/1/ AC/2/ 11/23 .	Mon Off		HR		Assets		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)											

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 31/10/2023

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities) - verbally

Date approved: 31/10/2023