
Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities)

Report to Member Management Committee

Date: 14th January 2014

Subject: Armed Forces Members Champion Working Group

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

Executive Board on the 6th November agreed that a cross party Armed Forces Member Champion Group would be established to support and promote the Leeds Armed Forces Community Covenant and act as a member advisory group for the development of future Armed Forces Day events.

The Armed Forces Member Champion Group will assist the Leeds Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership to build on the work that is already taking place to embed the principles of the Armed Forces Community Covenant within council services and partner organisations across the city.

Recommendations

Member Management Committee is asked to:

Nominate a representative from each political party to form a cross party Armed Forces member champion group and that group be Chaired by the relevant Executive Member or their nominee..

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek nominations to a cross party Armed Forces Member Champion Group.

2.0 Background information

- 2.1 Executive Board on the 6th November agreed that a cross party Armed Forces Member Champion Group would be established to support and promote the Leeds Armed Forces Community Covenant and act as a member advisory group for the development of future Armed Forces Day events.

3.0 Main issues

- 3.1 The Armed Forces Member Champion Group will assist the Leeds Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership to build on the work that is already taking place to embed the principles of the Armed Forces Community Covenant within council services and partner organisations across the city.
- 3.2 In particular:
- Provide additional support for the Armed Forces community in Leeds;
 - Encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces community in their area;
 - Nurture understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community;
 - Recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces community;
 - Encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life;
 - Act as a member advisory group for the development of future Armed Forces Day events.
- 3.3 Nominations are being sought from each of the five political groups for one member from each to sit on the member champion group and that group be Chaired by the relevant Executive Member or their nominee.
- 3.4 Meetings will be held every six months with the first meeting taking place in February 2014.

4.0 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 The proposals within this report have been informed through consultation with Executive Board.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 There are no specific issues around equality and diversity, cohesion and integration.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 This proposal supports the citywide ambition to be best city for communities. By ensuring that members of the Armed Forces Community and their families are not disadvantaged as a result of their service, this community will be supported to access the services they need and fully contribute to the success of the city.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 Capacity to develop our ambitions for the Armed Forces Community Covenant will be secured from within the Citizens and Communities.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 There are no potential legal implications arising from this report.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 Whilst recognising the response needs to be proportionate to the size and needs of the Armed Forces community, there are potential reputational and political risks if our response to the ambitions of the Armed Forces Community Covenant does not meet the expectations of local communities and local and national Armed Forces third sector organisations.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 Leeds has always had a strong connection with the Armed Forces. From the first day of the battle of the Somme, where it was estimated that every street in Leeds lost one man from the Leeds 'Pals', to the massive fund raising by the city for HMS Arc Royal.
- 5.2 Commitment to the Armed Forces covenant, the activities linked to the commemoration of the Great War and greater partnership working to develop Armed Forces Day events will ensure that Leeds recognises and remembers the contributions the Armed Forces community has made and continues to make to the city.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 Member Management Committee are asked to:
- Nominate a representative from each political party to form a cross party Armed Forces member champion group and that group be Chaired by the relevant Executive Member or their nominee. .

7.0 Background documents¹

- 7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.