



Report to: Policy and Resources Committee, 26th July 2022

Report of: Corporate Director – Planning and Governance

Subject: APPOINTMENT OF ARMED FORCES CHAMPION

Recommendation

1.1 That the Committee appoint a Member Champion for Armed Forces.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Armed Forces Champion, Councillor Chris Mitchell, has resigned from the role. The Committee are therefore invited to consider appointing a replacement.
- 2.2 "Member Champions" are elected members of the Council appointed to act as advocates or spokespeople for particular themes or particular communities which should be of interest to the Council in delivering its functions.
- 2.3 The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between the local communities of Worcestershire, represented by the Worcestershire Partnership, and the local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.
- 2.4 In support of the Community Covenant, the Council appoints an Armed Forces Champion and a representative to the West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association.
- 2.5 The role of the Champion is to uphold the aims of the Community Covenant by encouraging local communities to support the Armed Forces Community in their area, to nurture understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community and to ensure that current and former members of the Armed Forces are not disadvantaged as a consequence of their membership of the Armed Forces.
- 2.6 In September 2018 the Council established a reserve of £5,000 to help support local activities and initiatives that further the aims of the Covenant and improve the relationship between the Council and the local Armed Forces Community. Proposals for allocations from the fund are considered by the Armed Forces Champion in consultation with the Corporate Director - Finance and Resources.

3. Preferred Option

- 3.1 In accordance with the Council's approach to appointments to Champion and Lead Member roles, the Committee is requested to make an appointment of an individual Member to this role.

- 3.2 The terms of reference for Member Champions including the process for making appointments are set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.3 Once appointed, a Member Champion shall undertake the role for the duration of their Council term of office, unless decided otherwise by Policy and Resources Committee or where they wish to step down sooner. A Member Champion may, by exception, serve consecutive terms of office by agreement of the Policy and Resources Committee.

4. Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 The alternative option is to discontinue this appointment, which is not recommended as it does not support the Armed Forces Community Covenant, which was published in 2012, to which the City Council is a co-signatory.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial and Budgetary Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 Legal and Governance Implications

There are legal implications arising from this report. The governance arrangements are as set in the attached Appendix.

5.3 Risk Implications

There are no risk implications arising from this report.

5.4 Corporate/Policy Implications

The role of Member Champions is intended to support the Council in meeting its corporate policy objectives.

5.5 Equality Implications

None directly arising from this report. The Council has appointed a Member Champion for Equality, Diversity and inclusion.

5.6 Human Resources Implications

None arising from this report.

5.7 Health and Safety Implications

None directly arising from this report. The Council has appointed a Health and Safety Champion.

5.8 Social, Environmental and Economic Implications

The appointment of a Member Champion to advocate for the interests of Armed Forces and veterans community in Worcester is intended to have beneficial social and economic implications.

Ward(s):

All Wards

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Background Papers:

None