

Appointment a new Member to represent SSDC on the Armed Forces Community Covenant

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Purpose of the Report

To agree to appoint a new a new Member to represent SSDC on the Armed Forces Community Covenant for the remainder of the Council year.

Public Interest

At the Annual Council meeting on 17th May 2018, Members formally appointed their representatives to various outside organisations for a period of 12 months to represent the Council's interests on those organisations. At that time, Councillor Carol Goodall was appointed to represent SSDC on the Armed Forces Community Covenant. Councillor Goodall has now indicated her intention to step down from the role.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council appoint a new Member to represent SSDC on the Armed Forces Community Covenant for the remainder of the Council year.

The Armed Forces Community Covenant

The Somerset Armed Forces Covenant (SAFC) brings together charities, local authorities, other public sector organisations, businesses, communities, individuals and the military in a pledge of support between local residents and the armed forces community in Somerset. The pledge was signed on 20 February 2012.

The armed forces covenant:-

- encourages local communities to support their local armed forces community and vice versa
- promotes public understanding and awareness of issues that affect the armed forces community
- recognises and remembers the sacrifices made by the armed forces community
- encourages activities that help to integrate the armed forces community into local life

The Covenant is a promise from the nation to those who serve. It says we will do all we can to ensure they are treated fairly and not disadvantaged in their day-to-day lives. This includes offering injured servicemen and women and bereaved families extra support where appropriate. For more information about the national covenant visit www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/

Somerset has a long history of Armed Forces being based within our county such as RNAS Yeovilton and Norton Manor Camp. Local organisations, including councils, already have good

relationships with these bases and the charities that support in-service and ex-service personnel and their families.

The Somerset Armed Forces Covenant seeks to build on these relationships and local support, and provide a more consistent and complete approach. We work with the Armed Forces community on a range of priority areas within Somerset including: building communities; education, skills and employment; housing, benefits, health and welfare.

The Somerset Armed Forces Covenant is co-ordinated by Somerset County Council.

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, Councillor Carol Goodall has given notice that she wishes to step down from being the SSDC appointed representative on the Armed Forces Community Covenant. This has created a vacancy for the representative which Members are being asked to fill at this meeting.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications in taking this decision other than the travelling allowance paid to Members to attend official meetings which can be funded from the existing councillors' travelling and allowances budget.

Carbon Emissions Climate Change Implications

There are no specific environmental implications arising from the subject matter of this report.

Equalities and Diversity Impact

There are no specific equality or diversity implications arising from the subject matter of this report.

Background Papers

Council Agenda and Minutes of meeting held on 17th May 2018.
