

STOCKPORT COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET- SUMMARY SHEET

Subject: Armed Forces Covenant Summary of Achievements 2018-2021 and Priorities 2021-2024

Report to Cabinet

Date: 21/09/2021

Report of: (a) Cabinet Member for Inclusive Neighbourhoods

Key Decision: (b) Y

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency (Mark with a Y if applicable)

Summary:

The national Armed Forces Covenant was introduced by the Government in 2011. It is 'a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly'. The Covenant is fulfilled by different groups including Central Government, local government, the armed forces, businesses, charities and communities.

Local covenants are very important in delivering the Armed Forces Covenant at local level. In Stockport, our Armed Forces Covenant was produced in 2012 and we have refreshed our priorities every three years since.

The attached report provides a summary of key achievements since the publication of our most recent priorities in 2018 and introduces our draft Covenant priorities for 2021-2024. The covering report includes: -

- Background to the Armed Forces Covenant, including the purpose of the local covenants;
- A summary of key achievements since the publication of our previous Stockport Armed Forces Covenant priorities in 2018;
- A introduction to our draft priorities for 2021-2024

The Stockport Armed Forces Covenant and a more detailed report on our priorities for 2021-2024 are also appended.

Comments/Views of the Cabinet Member: (c)

The Stockport Armed Forces Community Covenant has been in place since 2008. Whilst the council coordinates and facilitates meetings of the Armed Forces Covenant Group, the covenant is a partnership agreement, the delivery of which relies on the input of the council, other public sector bodies, local voluntary and community organisations and the armed forces community. I am pleased that the priorities presented have been shaped by individual and organisational responses to a survey the council carried out this year and co-designed through a series of workshops with members of the armed forces covenant group . Supporting our service armed forces members, our veterans and their families remains a priority for the council and our partners. We propose to refresh the figures relating to Stockport's armed forces community within the covenant agreement itself once the results of this year's Census are available as this was the first year armed forces data has been collected within the census.

Recommendation(s) of Cabinet Member: (d)

Cabinet is invited to: -

- Comment on and endorse the Stockport Armed Forces Covenant priorities for 2021-2024;
- Comment on and endorse the Council's intention to work towards the Gold award of the Employer Recognition Scheme

Relevant Scrutiny Committee (if decision called in): **(e)**
Communities & Housing

Background Papers (if report for publication): **(f)**

Contact person for accessing
background papers and discussing the report

Officer: Kirsteen Roe
Tel:

'Urgent Business': (g)

Yes/ No (Please circle)

Certification (if applicable)

This report should be considered as 'urgent business' and the decision exempted from 'call-in' for the following reason(s):

The written consent of Councillor _____ and the Chief Executive/Monitoring Officer/ Borough Treasurer for the decision to be treated as 'urgent business' was obtained on /will be obtained before the decision is implemented.
