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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 12</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019</b>	<b>CATEGORY:</b>
		<b>RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>IAN HEY (01283 228741) Ian.Hey@south-derbys.gov.uk</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>ARMED FORCES COVENANT</b>	
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE:</b>

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## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the Council notes and agrees the revised content of the Armed Forces Covenant and agrees to this being re-signed.
- 1.2 That the Council agrees to allow delegated authority to the Chief Executive of the Council to agree any future changes to the draft Armed Forces Covenant prior to it being re-signed on 7 March 2019.

## **2.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 At the meeting of the 17 January 2019 the Council agreed to re-sign the Armed Forces Covenant. The re-signing is scheduled for 7 March 2019. The draft of the Armed Forces Covenant was amended subsequent to this meeting to clarify detail at section 5.10 Employment and Employers. This report highlights the need to agree the changes and requests delegated authority to allow the Chief Executive of the Council to agree any future changes to the Armed Forces Covenant prior to the re-signing.

## **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation to ensure that those who serve or who have served, and their families, are treated fairly. This commitment is made in recognition of the sacrifices they make on behalf of the country. The Armed Forces Covenant is not designed to give the Armed Forces, Veterans and their family's preferential treatment compared with other citizens but it should ensure that they get a fair deal and are not disadvantaged because of their military service.
- 3.2 The Council agreed to re-sign the Armed Forces Covenant at the meeting of 17 January 2019.

- 3.3 Section 5.10 of the draft Covenant has subsequently been amended to clarify points made. Appendix A contains the original, agreed, wording for section 5.10. Appendix B contains the amended wording to section 5.10. It is requested that the Council notes and agrees the revised wording.
- 3.4 The Armed Forces Covenant is due to be re-signed at County Hall, Matlock on 7 March 2019. There will be no opportunity to bring any further amendments to Council prior to this event. It is requested that the Chief Executive of the Council is given delegated authority to agree any further amendments to the Armed Forces Covenant prior to this date.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 None additional as a result of this report.

#### **5.0 Corporate Implications**

- 5.1 Every Local Authority in the country signed up to the previous Armed Forces Community Covenant and are in the process of re-signing the revised Covenant. This will align South Derbyshire District Council with all Local Authorities in Derbyshire and nationally.

#### **6.0 Community Impact**

- 6.1 The Covenant presents an opportunity for Local Authorities to bring knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces community.
- 6.2 For the Armed Forces community, the Covenant encourages the integration of Service personnel, Veterans and their families into civilian life and to engage with their local community.

#### **7.0 Conclusions**

- 7.1 Signing the Armed Forces Covenant will reaffirm the commitment of the Council to the principles of:
- The Armed Forces Community should not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.
  - Special consideration is appropriate in some cases for those who have given the most, such as the injured or bereaved.

#### **8.0 Background Papers**

- 8.1 Appendix A – Original wording for Section 5.10  
Appendix B – Revised wording for Section 5.10