

**STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**COUNCIL**

**18 JULY 2019**

**AGENDA  
ITEM NO**

**8biii**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>MILITARY COVENANT – MEMBER CHAMPION</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To appoint a Member champion to support the Military Covenant
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<b>The Council RESOLVES to:</b> Appoint a Councillor champion to support the military covenant in Stroud District.
<b>Consultation and Feedback</b>	Strategy & Resources Committee 13 June 2019
<b>Financial Implications and Risk Assessment</b>	There are no financial implications.  Lucy Clothier, Principal Accountant Tel: 01453 754343 Email: <a href="mailto:lucy.clothier@stroud.gov.uk">lucy.clothier@stroud.gov.uk</a>
<b>Legal Implications</b>	There are no legal implications arising from this report Patrick Arran, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer Tel: 01453 754369 Email: <a href="mailto:patrick.arran@stroud.gov.uk">patrick.arran@stroud.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report Author</b>	Kevin Topping, Head of Housing Services Tel: 01453 754196 Email: <a href="mailto:kevin.topping@stroud.gov.uk">kevin.topping@stroud.gov.uk</a>
<b>Options</b>	The Council can either choose to appoint a Member champion or decide not to appoint a Member champion
<b>Performance Management Follow Up</b>	Report to S&R in 2020 outlining progress.
<b>Background Papers/ Appendices</b>	Appendix A - Report to S&R meeting 13 June 2019 <a href="#">\\Filesrv2\public\Tenant Services\Armed Forces Appendix A.pdf</a> Appendix B - Ministry of Housing, Communities & local Government letter dated 17 June 2019 to all local authorities <a href="#">\\Filesrv2\public\Tenant Services\Armed Forces Appendix B.pdf</a>

**1. Introduction**

1.1. The report to Strategy and Resources Committee on 13 June 2019 (Appendix A) titled “supporting the military covenant in the Stroud District” was presented by Kevin Topping, Head of Housing Services. The paper outlined the background to the military covenant and contained three recommendations which were:

- a) Agree that a member of the Royal British Legion is based in reception on designated days to support veterans on a trial basis.
- b) Agree to appoint a Councillor to champion the military covenant.
- c) That the Head of Housing Services is tasked with being the Council’s officer champion for the military covenant.

- 1.2. Recommendations A and C were resolved, with the matter at point B being referred to Council for a nominee.
- 1.3. The letter attached at Appendix B is from Mrs Heather Wheeler MP (Minister for Housing and Homelessness) and the Right Honourable Tobias Ellwood MP (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Defence People and Veterans) encouraging all local authorities to ensure that they have an armed forces covenant champion. The letter includes guidance information for local authority partnerships and potential funding opportunities to support projects that benefit the Armed Forces and the community in which they live.

## **2. Current Position**

- 2.1. The Head of Housing Services, as the newly selected Officer Champion, has made contact with the regional officer of the Royal British Legion and the Gloucestershire County Council Commissioning Officer to review the current position within the county, as the information available indicates that there has been very little joined up working shared and the last annual report for the Covenant in Gloucestershire was in 2016.
- 2.2. Following meetings to be arranged, it is expected that members of the covenant (including housing, health, welfare and support) are all brought together to ensure we are all working together and doing the right things as stakeholders and not drifting into silo working or working beyond our resources and skill sets.

## **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1. To appoint a Councillor champion who will work with and support the Head of Housing Services delivering the military covenant in the Stroud District and who will also have their details shared, where relevant for example, to members of the Armed Forces community.