
West Sussex County Council Armed Forces Strategy

- 1** The County Council is proud to support the armed forces community in its work and achieved Gold Award status in August 2020 on the South East Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association (SERFCA) Employer Award Programme.
- 2** The County Council's Armed Forces Champion has been asked by the Leader to work with officers to develop a Strategy to set out the Council's continuing support to the armed forces community. The proposed Strategy is **set out at Appendix 1** to the report.

Consultation

- 3** The draft Strategy has been considered by the County Council's Executive Leadership Team and the Cabinet. They have indicated support for the draft Strategy for consideration by the County Council.
- 4** The County Council hosts the West Sussex Civilian Military Partnership Board, a stakeholder group including borough and district councils, armed forces organisations, major charities and business and employment representatives. The Partnership Board considered the draft Strategy in February 2021 and welcomed it. It suggested that a reference to the Council's archive work to preserve armed forces records should be included, which has been done.

Resources

- 5** It is expected that the network of staff champions will be expanded and met within existing resources.
- 6** The County Council has identified to the Ministry of Defence the costs of having a lead Covenant Office and it is considering whether to provide funding to councils to support such posts after the introduction of the proposed legislation to require councils to have regard to armed forces covenant matters in decision making.

Recommended

That the Armed Forces Strategy be endorsed for approval by the Leader.

Pete Bradbury

West Sussex Armed Forces Champion

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft Armed Forces Strategy

Background papers

None