
MEETING	STAFFING MATTERS & URGENCY COMMITTEE
DATE	7 NOVEMBER 2011
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS ALEXANDER (CHAIR), GUNNELL (EXCEPT MINUTE ITEM 67), FRASER, RUNCIMAN AND GILLIES

PART B-MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

68. COMMUNITY COVENANT

Members received a report which asked them to agree to the establishment of a Community Covenant with local armed forces subject to the approval of Council.

Officers expanded on the process of the establishment of the Community Covenant and explained that;

- Following approval by this Committee, the Covenant would then be considered by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), who would be expected to approve it.
- That an official 'signing' of the Covenant will be arranged by the MOD, which will include the three main services involved; the three armed forces, the Council and the York Council for Voluntary Services (CVS).
- That a Covenant Partnership would be set up consisting of representatives from the armed forces, the Council and York CVS in the first instance.
- That the Council will then encourage a wide range of further organisations to sign up to the Covenant and become part of the Covenant Partnership.
- That grant funding from the MOD will be available for those organisations who sign up to the Covenant Partnership to bid for.

In response to the comments raised by Ken Beavan, under Public Participation (Minute Item 66) Members stated that they wished for York Royal British Legion to be a primary signatory to the Community Covenant alongside the aforementioned partners.

Councillor Alexander stated that leaders across the Yorkshire and Humber area have agreed to enter into covenants. Further discussion will take place regarding how the Council will be represented on the partnership before the next Council meeting.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) That Council be asked to endorse the views of the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee, in supporting a community covenant, and pledge its support to establish a Community Covenant.
- (ii) That Council authorise the Chief Executive to hold discussions with representatives of our local armed forces to progress establishing a covenant.

REASON: To support relationships between the people of York and local armed forces.

Councillor J Alexander, Chair
[The meeting started at 1.00 pm and finished at 1.25 pm].