



Council

25 February 2014

Matter for Decision

Title: **Armed Forces Covenant**

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1. Introduction

1.1 The armed forces covenant sets out the relationship between the nation, the state and the armed forces. It recognises that the whole nation has a moral obligation to members of the armed forces and their families and it establishes how they should expect to be treated.

1.2 At its meeting on 3rd September 2013 the Council resolved:

- i)** That the Council agrees to sign the Armed Forces Covenant.
- ii)** That the detailed commitments as they would apply to Oadby & Wigston Borough Council will need to be worked up and agreed by members for inclusion in, and prior to the actual signing of the Covenant in 2014.

1.3 As a result of this a cross party members working group was set up, chaired by Councillor Lynda Eaton, to develop the detailed commitments working with Colonel Pope who is the main military liaison officer for the region.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1.** That the Council formally adopts the Oadby & Wigston Armed Forces Covenant as developed by the Working Group and agreed with Colonel Pope as attached in Appendix 1
- 2.2.** That the Working Group leads the implementation, development and evolution of the Covenant and reports back to the wider membership annually on progress.
- 2.3.** That a formal Civic signing event is organised and that the appropriate contributors are invited.

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Background Papers:-

Borough Commemorations and Commitments for 2014 - 3 September 2013

Implications	
Financial (PL)	CR1 Decreasing Financial Resources: No implications currently
Risk (PL)	CR3; political dynamics & CR4; reputation damage
Equalities (KG)	The covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between civilians and the armed forces in their area to encourage mutual understanding and to bring the two communities together The measures listed at 4.1 to 4.7 inclusive of Appendix 1 require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).
Legal (KG)	The covenant itself is not a legal document but its key principles have been enshrined into the Armed Forces Act 2011.