

APPENDIX K

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE - 6 MARCH 2012

Title:

**SURREY COMMUNITY COVENANT AND SURREY CIVILIAN
- MILITARY PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Robert Knowles]

[Wards Affected: All]

Summary and purpose:

This report sets out a proposal from Surrey County Council that Waverley commits to a countywide Community Covenant with the Armed Forces community and asks the Executive if it would like to put forward a nomination for the proposed Surrey Civilian – Military Partnership Board.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

The report for the proposed Covenant relates to understanding the particular needs of members of the overall Armed Services community within Waverley.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

The Covenant would aim to respond to the particular needs of all members of the Armed Forces community.

Environment and Climate Change Implications:

There are no environmental implications.

Resource/Value for Money implications:

There are no immediate resource implications and signing of the Covenant can be met within existing resources.

Legal Implications:

The aim of the Surrey Community Covenant is to help the Council follow the National Armed Forces Covenant adopted by Government.

Background

1. Members may be aware that the Council signed a Bond of Friendship with the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in April 2010 and subsequently awarded the Freedom of the Borough to the Regiment in April 2011. This was exercised by the Regiment in the first Freedom Parade in June 2011. A copy of the Bond of Friendship adopted by the Council is attached as Annexe 1.

Introduction

2. Surrey County Council has now discussed with South East Brigade Headquarters of the Army adopting a countywide Surrey Community Covenant covering the whole of the Armed Forces community.
3. The Covenant is intended to develop relationships between civilian and military organisations across the county for the benefit of our community as a whole.
4. Copies of the invitation letter from the Chairman of the County Council and the Surrey Community Covenant are attached as Annexes 1 and 2.

Potential Community Projects

5. Surrey County Council has advised us that the Ministry of Defence has allocated £30 m for community projects across the country which strengthen ties between the Armed Forces and the civilian population. A countywide covenant is necessary before community groups can apply for this funding.
6. The key aim of the covenant is to improve communication and co-operation between civilian and military communities in Surrey and to encourage closer links between communities and their local Armed Forces units.

Situation in Waverley

7. As explained above, the Council has already awarded the Freedom of the Borough and agreed a Bond of Friendship with the local Army unit which recruits in Waverley, the Princess of Wales's Regiment. However, it is understood that there are members of all three services living in Waverley, particularly from the RAF Odiham base where a number of staff at the base live in Farnham and the west of the borough.

Conclusion

8. The Surrey Community Covenant offers an opportunity to build on the existing links between the borough and its local regiment and to meet the particular needs of members of the Armed Forces in the borough.

Recommendation

The Executive is recommended to

1. agree to endorse and sign the Surrey Community Covenant;
 2. ask the officers to investigate further where particular needs of members of the service community could be met or responded to better and to report back to a future meeting of the Executive; and
 3. decide if it wishes to appoint to the Surrey Civilian - Military Partnership Board.
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Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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[Http://emperor2/sites/democratic/Committees/executive/2011-12/10 06 March 2012/005 - surrey community covenant.doc](http://emperor2/sites/democratic/Committees/executive/2011-12/10%2006%20March%202012/005%20-%20surrey%20community%20covenant.doc)