

Outside Bodies - Member Reporting Form

Councillor Name and Role on Outside Body (for example, Observer, Trustee, Director)	Edward J Nash – Member and Armed Forces Champion for Fylde
Period this report covers (date):	Up to 4 th March 2016
Name of Outside Body:	Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for NW England and IOM
How often does the organisation meet? And how often have you attended?	2-3 times a year. I have attended all
<p>Key issues arising for Fylde Borough Council</p> <p><i>Examples of issues could be those that may affect decisions regarding budget setting, challenges for residents, policy changes that affect partnership working etc</i></p> <p>(continue on a separate sheet if necessary).</p>	<p>This meeting was to present the revised and rebranded Armed Forces Covenant following a 5 year review.</p> <p>The Covenant now encompasses the national covenant, local community covenants and corporate covenants made between employers and the MOD.</p> <p>The Covenant covers 5 main areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Education • Accommodation • Business & Community • The wider covenant <p>Main changes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Significant extra finance for secondary medical support for all who have served. £10m given to the Royal British Legion for provision of better hearing aids and mobility aids. ➤ A big push to help families of serving to gain and maintain employment. (We are helping with this at Weeton Camp) ➤ £21m to help Service children to gain increased pastoral education support to mitigate the effects of a migratory life. <p>(See further comments below)</p>
Who did you inform of these issues within Fylde Borough Council?	All Members need to know; those with wards including Weeton and Warton may need to know more and I can arrange a separate briefing if required.
In the light of these meetings, is it worthwhile for the Council to continue to have a representative/representatives on this body?	Very Much so

<p>Any further comments? (continue on a separate sheet if necessary)</p>	<p>Accommodation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Loaned £85m to help serving personnel to buy their own home ▪ Those injured in service to have preferential access to housing ▪ Major improvements planned to barracks accommodation <p>Business and Community:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Those businesses wishing to show support for the Armed Forces Community can sign the Covenant. 2. A major review is taking place for community covenants (as we have in Fylde) to improve support to Local Authorities including specific support grants in 2016. 3. Targeted action with Local Authorities to address key issues, e.g. access to social housing. <p>The Wider Covenant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Established a Forces Credit Union b. Reservists now eligible for an Armed Forces Pension c. Reservists now eligible for Forces Railcard d. Reservists on benefits can attend 43 days training on full pay without affecting benefits. e. £10m annual Covenant Fund established f. £25m aged veterans Fund established g. Spouses and adult children returning from overseas now exempt from 3 month residence requirement to claim jobseekers allowances <p>Targets for 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Publish Armed Forces Family Strategy ❖ Review of Schools Admissions Codes and Special Needs Code ❖ Financial Services Community to give more support (e.g. loss of credit rating when overseas) ❖ Guidance for Armed Forces Champions in Local Authorities ❖ Review of divorced spouses and separated civil partners in a Services environment ❖ Toolkit for Local Authorities re challenges for Armed Forces Communities.
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