

Title: **Armed Forces Member Champion – Annual Report 2021**

To: **Cabinet** On: **21st September 2021**

Councillor Nicole Amil

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1. Details of progress made against targets for 2021

- 1.1 Regular 6 weekly meetings have been set up to drive the development of the Armed Forces Covenant and the new Duty coming into force under the Armed Forces Bill.
- 1.2 A review has been undertaken in relation to what is needed to ensure that Torbay Council can meet the requirements under the new Duty and an Emerging Issues Paper is being prepared for presentation.
- 1.3 Torbay Council are now an engaged member of the Southwest Armed Forces Covenant Group and is represented there by Victoria McGeough (Safer Communities Partnership Manager).
- 1.4 Torbay Council is in the process of re-joining Forces Connect Southwest. This will support us to develop our local responses and support to the Armed Forces Community and will also open up funding opportunities.
- 1.5 Torbay Council has now gained the Bronze Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Award. This is being processed and a certificate of recognition will be received within the next 6 weeks.
- 1.6 Work has started to review the training modules available in relation to the Armed Forces Covenant on i-Learn, to support more effective workforce development in this area.
- 1.7 The webpage is also in the process of being reviewed for update.

2. Review of job description

- 2.1 There are no proposed changes to the Job Description for the Armed Forces Member Champion for 2021.

3. Targets for (enter year)

- 3.1 To put in place a clear delivery plan that works towards ensuring that the requirements of the new Duty are met.
- 3.2 To ensure the delivery plan goes beyond the remit of the Duty and supports the wider needs of the Armed Forces Community in key areas such as employment and benefits.
- 3.3 For Torbay Council to work towards and be on the way to achieving (if not achieved) the Silver Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Award.
- 3.4 For funding opportunities to be explored.
- 3.5 For the work outlined above in relation to workforce development and the website development to be completed.

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4. Other matters

4.1 There are no other matters at this time.

5. Recommendations

5.1 That the targets for the Armed Forces Member Champion set out in paragraph 3 be approved.