

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2013

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: NW ARMED FORCES DAY 2013, FLINTSHIRE'S
ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT AND
'FREEDOM OF THE COUNTY' ANNIVERSARY
PARADE

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide details of the planning arrangements for each of the above events.

2.00 BACKGROUND

Armed Forces Day 2013

Flintshire County Council will be hosting the North Wales Armed Forces Day 2013 celebrations on 22 June at Deeside College campus, Connah's Quay.

This event will provide an opportunity for local communities to show their support for the men and women of the United Kingdom's Armed Forces. The event will be multi-organisational and aimed at a huge public attendance across the whole of North Wales and bordering Counties.

An important part of the day's celebrations will be the presentation of HM Armed Forces Veterans Badges to a number of former members of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force.

The day will commence with a military parade from the rear of the college grounds into the athletics stadium, around the athletics pitch and conclude with a Drumhead Service. Presentation of the Veteran's Badges will be made by the Lord Lieutenants of Clwyd and Gwynedd (subject to the details of the recipients). The finale for the day will be a ceremony that will include a salute with standards (RBL).

There are plans for a Military Village, Army Climbing Wall, Paint Ball Range and Inflatable assault course, Field Gun Display and the various Armed Services recruitment trailers together with a comprehensive programme of entertainment including a fairground,

face painting, Brass Band, Falconry display, local Cheer Leading Teams and Veterans' Stories.

Throughout the day display stands and static and active presentations will be on show including entries from Royal British Legion, Service Charities and Association and Volunteer Groups.

Flintshire County Council's Play Development Team will also provide an exhibition of their current "Play Memories Campaign". Residents across the County have been asked to provide their "memories" of their childhood experiences during World War 2.

Community Covenant

At its meeting on the 29th January the County Council agreed to the adoption of an Armed Forces Community Covenant between the Council, The Armed Forces in Flintshire and representatives from the Voluntary, Business, Health and Education Sectors.

Community Covenants are voluntary statements of mutual support between civilian communities and their local Armed Forces community. They are intended to complement, at a local level, the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the mutual obligations between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces.

A "stakeholder" event is now being arranged for Friday 3rd May to provide our partners with more information about the Armed Forces Community Covenant and a better understanding of how we can jointly develop a practical and committed approach to supporting the lives of both veteran and service military personnel in our County. The event will take place in the Alyn and Deeside Room, County Hall at 2.00 p.m.

It is then proposed to arrange a formal "signing" and launch ceremony. (see section 3 below)

Out of the 6 NW Local Authorities, Anglesey and Wrexham have already signed a Community Covenant, Conwy is due to sign on the 30th April and initial discussions are being held with Denbighshire and Gwynedd.

At its meeting on the 18th March, 2013, the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority also agreed to sign up, as a recognised partner, to each of the 6 NW Councils Community Covenants in due course.

Freedom of the County

Members will recall that in April 2009 the Royal Welsh Regiment was granted the Freedom of the County of Flintshire. A parade and

celebration took place around the town of Mold and the Mold Alun Campus.

Arrangements are now in hand to celebrate the 4th Anniversary with a parade and celebration in Flint Town Centre on Saturday 27th July, 2013. Final details of the route and venue are still to be determined.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

It is proposed to hold a formal “signing” and launch ceremony of Flintshire’s Armed Services Community Covenant alongside the celebrations for the Freedom of the County parade on the 27th July.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and the positive involvement of the Council in these events.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None directly associated with this report.

The development of a Community Covenant could provide the Council with access to further funding streams.

Applications for funding from the Welsh Government and Ministry of Defence have been submitted for associated costs with the NW Armed Forces Day.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

None.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

None.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

The purpose of the Community Covenant is to ensure that Members, or veterans, of the Armed Forces and their families are not disadvantaged in accessing public services.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

None.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

None.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

None.

12.00 APPENDICES

None.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Contained and listed in the Executive Office, County Hall, Mold.

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