

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Council : 30 September 2010

Subject: Veteran's Champion

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the appointment of a Council Champion to represent the interests of Armed Forces Veterans.

2. Background

- 2.1 The General Secretary of Veterans Scotland has invited local authorities to appoint a champion to represent the interests of armed forces veterans. As at 20 May 2010 some twenty two authorities had appointed champions.
- 2.2 The suggested responsibilities of the champion are as detailed in Appendix 1.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 Veterans Scotland asks for the champion to be appointed from among the Elected Representatives. The duties of the champion are not expected to be arduous and are detailed in Appendix 1.

4. People Implications

- 4.1 There are no people implications.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1 There is no risk implications.

7. Equalities Impact

- 7.1 There are no equalities implications.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 8.1** Council is asked to consider whether it wishes to appoint a Veteran's Champion, and if so to nominate a Councillor to serve as Veteran's Champion.

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Appendices: Appendix 1

Background Papers: Letter from Veterans Scotland

Wards Affected: ALL

D R A F T

LOCAL AUTHORITY VETERANS COMMUNITY CHAMPION

The suggested responsibilities for the Local Authority Veterans Champion include the following:

- a) To ensure that the interests of the Veterans Community in West Dunbartonshire are properly represented, considered and prioritised within the Council's policies, strategies, plans and other activities.
- b) To consider the impact on the Veterans Community in West Dunbartonshire of Council decisions and policies.
- c) To hold the Executive to account, either singularly or with the support of other members, in terms of the delivery of Council services to members of the Veterans Community.
- d) To liaise as appropriate with Armed Forces', Veterans' and Service Families' organisations and representatives to discuss matters of concern to the Veterans Community in West Dunbartonshire.
- e) To monitor complaints against Council services and actions which have an adverse effect on the Veterans Community.
- f) To help to raise the profile of the Veterans Community in West Dunbartonshire, and to facilitate Council support for:
 - i) Homecoming parades.
 - ii) Remembrance parades and events.
 - iii) Armed Forces Day.
 - iv) Fund-raising events undertaken by Service charities.
- g) To engage with Scottish Ministers and, as appropriate, UK Defence Ministers and others in relation to Veterans Community requirements.
- h) To provide regular reports to all Council members of activities in relation to the Veterans Community which have taken place in West Dunbartonshire Council area.