**Armed Forces Covenant**

**ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTED MEMBER**

**ARMED FORCES CHAMPION**

**1. Armed Forces Covenant**

1.1 The Armed Forces and Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces and Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

1.2 The purpose of the Armed Forces Covenant Partnership group is to bring partners together to foster greater understanding, support and integration between civilian and armed forces communities. Its role is to support and further the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant and integrate, where possible, military and civilian activities and events to the mutual benefit of both communities.

**2. Purpose of the Armed Forces Champion role**

2.1 To champion and advocate on behalf of the Armed Forces Covenant in the Allerdale Borough Council area.

**3. Values**

3.1 These are the values applied to this role. The Armed Forces Champion will:

* communicate in a clear and constructive way;
* act with honesty and respect for others;
* demonstrate a positive flexible attitude;
* take responsibility for their actions.

**4. Role Profile**

4.1 The role of the Armed Forces Champion is:

* to make contact with suitable and appropriate local organisations which represent and support the armed forces and veterans and to establish effective and regular consultation arrangements with those organisations;
* to raise the profile of the Armed Forces Covenant with other decision-makers;
* to advocate on behalf of the Armed Forces Covenant priorities and campaigns and to help the Cumbria Armed Forces Covenant Partnership achieve them;
* to ensure that the Armed Forces Covenant priorities and campaigns are taken into account when local policies and plans are being developed;
* to advocate on behalf of ex-services personnel.

**5. Meetings**

5.1 Meetings between the Cumbria County Council Portfolio Holder and Local Committee Armed Forces Champions take place at least twice a year. This is a chance for all local Armed Forces Champions to discuss their activity in their area, in order to ensure that the armed forces community has support throughout Cumbria. The Armed Forces Champion and Policy Officer (Scrutiny and Partnerships) attend this.

5.2 This meeting is a forum in which the County Council Armed Forces Champion will update local Armed Forces Champions on the Armed Forces Covenant Partnership, as well as each champion detailing their activity in relation to Armed Forces issues in their area. This offers a chance for District Champions to liaise and work together with County Council Champions and other stakeholders.

5.3 In addition, the Armed Forces Champion and Policy Officer (Scrutiny and Partnerships) attend the quarterly Armed Forces Covenant Partnership, in which there is the option to present on a particular topic or project proposal.

**6. Accountability and Reporting**

6.1 Information on activities, campaigns and progress will be reported verbally by the Armed Forces Champion to the Leader and / or an informal meeting of the Executive.