

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
21 MARCH 2016	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Nigel North, Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital	
Contact Officer(s):	Ian Phillips, People and Communities Policy Unit	Tel. 863849

ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT GRANT SCHEME

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : <i>People and Communities Policy Unit</i>	Deadline date : <i>N/A</i>
<p>Cabinet is recommended to note the close partnership working between the Council and RAF Wittering which has led to a number of successful projects to support the Armed Forces and Civilian communities.</p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet to seek endorsement for ongoing support for work involving the Armed Forces Community Covenant and associated grant scheme.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to understand the success that the Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant has had in integrating Forces and Civilian communities.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.3 'To take a leading role in promoting the economic, environmental and social well-being of the area'.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT GRANT SCHEME - ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme has operated nationally by the Ministry of Defence since 2013-14 and closed in September 2015. The scheme complemented the Armed Forces Community Covenant which sets out how Armed Forces and Civilian communities can recognise and support one other. It also recognises the sacrifice that members of the Armed Forces make and have made in protecting the country.
- 4.2 The grant scheme invited funding bids from Community Covenant partnerships that could bring Armed Forces and Civilian communities closer together. Bids could only be made from a community covenant partnership which had to include a local authority and an Armed Forces organisation.
- 4.3 Peterborough City Council and RAF Wittering have worked in close partnership (alongside other community organisations) to develop funding bids that could meet the Government's objective. The partnership has been highly successful in attracting funding from the grant

scheme which has resulted in six projects generating an investment of £125k for the community in Wittering. Further information regarding these projects is set out below.

- 4.4 **Wittering Families Centre** received £50k via Wittering primary school to continue to run services for parents and pre-school children following its closure as a Childrens Centre. Funding provided transitional running costs that allowed the centre to stay open and the costs have now been sustained by the school. The Families Centre is highly popular with families and provides a number of sessions and support for both pre-school children and their parents. The Families Centre employs a Family Support Worker who can work with families from both pre-school through to older siblings who attend the primary school.
- 4.5 **Community Learning Centre** were awarded £50k to refurbish a MOD building within the village in order to expand adult learning. Working in partnership with City College, the centre will deliver a range of training courses for both Armed Forces and the wider community and provide a particular focus on skills and employment. In addition, the centre will provide the only public internet facility within Wittering. It is expected that the building will be open in May 2016.
- 4.6 The new **Youth Drop in** building received £9.5k from the grant scheme and was match funded through the RAF Benevolent Fund, the RAF Wittering Children and Young People Board and the Parish Council making a total project of £60k. Whilst youth services have been provided by the RAF for over 10 years, the facilities were limited and out of date. This project will refurbish a larger facility and increase the amount of young people who can access the services.
- 4.7 Young people have been at the heart of developing this project and worked on all aspects of the building design and equipment. This has help teach young people new skills around budgeting, decision making and working together. This approach is a key part of the ethos of the project which aims to help prepare young people for adult life by teaching them key skills such as cooking, independence, leadership and socialising. The building is in the heart of the village and will be open to young people from Armed Forces families and the wider community. It is expected to be open in May 2016.
- 4.8 The **Flying Start Nursery** provides childcare services for pre-school children in the village and was awarded £12.5k for new outdoor play equipment. This is the only nursery within Wittering and is well used by both Armed Forces and civilian families helping to build integration between both. The project has provided outside play equipment, a new garden project and invested in sensory equipment to support young children with disabilities.
- 4.9 Two other projects have been funded through the grant scheme. **Kingscliffe Football Club** received £1,000 for new football kits. A member of staff employed at the RAF volunteers at the football club as a coach and trains local and Armed Forces children. The final funded project enabled a **village sign** to be erected in Wittering. The sign was developed by local school children and celebrates the heritage of the village and the RAF. The Parish Council worked closely with the school and RAF to co-ordinate and deliver this project.
- 4.10 In 2015, the Government revised the Community Covenant grant scheme. The scheme is now closed to new applications, but it is expected to open again later in 2016. Whilst details are still awaited, based upon the latest scheme applicants can either apply for a small grant of up to £20k or a larger grant of up to £500k providing that they can demonstrate that they meet at least one of the following outcomes:
- Community integration (creating strong links between Armed Forces and Civilian communities and how to overcome barriers)
 - The coordination and delivery of support to the Armed Forces community (such as financial, housing, mental and physical health, employability and social support.)
 - Former service personnel in the criminal justice system

- 4.11 Through the work of the Council's Armed Forces Community Champion, the council will work with RAF Wittering and voluntary and community groups across the city to identify any projects that may be eligible for future bids to the grant scheme.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 None.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 None.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To ensure Cabinet is informed of the close partnership working between the Council and RAF Wittering which has led to a number of successful projects to support the Armed Forces and Civilian communities.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 There have been no alternative options considered, as not relevant to this report.

9. IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

9.2 Financial Implications

Cabinet may wish consider future opportunities to apply for funding that can support veterans and serving Armed Forces personnel.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

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