

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF AN ITEM

7 NOVEMBER 2013

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the inclusion of an additional item in the Scrutiny Committee work programme.

2. Background

- 2.1 Protocol 1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Handbook provides a procedure for Members to follow when requesting items to be considered by a Scrutiny Committee (see also the Council's Constitution Part 4 Section 5 Rules of Procedures Paragraph 9).

3. Item Requested

- 3.1 Councillor Howe has requested consideration of the following item:

Ex-Services Personnel in Sunderland: Health Inequalities and delivering the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

- 3.2 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to receive a presentation on current activities in relation to health inequalities around services for veterans and on delivering the Sunderland Armed Forces Community Covenant.

- 3.3 The Sunderland Armed Forces Community Covenant was signed in May 2012 and is a voluntary pledge of mutual support between the civilian community and its local armed forces community.

- 3.4 The local authority and the armed forces community will use their community covenant to:

- Support the armed forces community in their areas and to nurture public understanding and awareness among the public of issues affecting the armed forces community
- Recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the armed forces community
- Encourage activities which help to integrate the armed forces community into local life
- Encourage the armed forces community to help and support the wider community, whether through participation in events and joint projects, or other forms of engagement

- 3.5 The Sunderland Armed Forces Network (SAFN) has been instrumental in working in the city to ensure that people are not disadvantaged as a result of service in the armed forces. SAFN works with Sunderland City

Council and its partners to deliver the aims of the Covenant. The SAFN will provide the Committee with a presentation on current progress.

4. Framework for Consideration of Submissions

4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution and with Protocol 1, the Committee may choose to respond within the following framework:

- (1) The Scrutiny Committee may determine that the item is not relevant to the functions of the Committee. In these circumstances the Committee can resolve to take no action.
- (2) If the issue is linked to an existing work programme item (within the next two cycles) then it should be discussed as part of that item and included in any officer report.
- (3) If the issue is a new item of business, the Scrutiny Committee may:
 - (a) Request a response in writing (with copies to all Members of the Committee) or
 - (b) Request a presentation to a future Scrutiny Committee meeting, or
 - (c) Request a report to a future Panel meeting, or
 - (d) Decide that the issue raised does not merit any response beyond noting the matter, or
 - (e) Decide to express a view or make a recommendation if the Committee considers it has sufficient information to make a fully informed decision.

5. Conclusion

5.1 The Committee is asked to consider the request and determine from the framework set out in Section 4 of this report which option to pursue.

6. Background Papers

Sunderland City Council Constitution
City of Sunderland Overview and Scrutiny Handbook

Contact Officer: Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer
karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk