

Bwrdd Gweithredol
27.07.20

**CYFAMOD Y LLUOEDD ARFOG (LLA) A GWOBR EFYDD Y
CYNLLUN CYDNABOD CYFLOGWR YR AMDDIFFYN**

Yr Argymhellion / Penderfyniadau Allweddol Sydd Eu Hangen:

I gytuno i'r Cyngor arwyddo'r Cyfamod Lluoedd Arfog (LIA) ac i gefnogi ymuno gyda'r Wobr Efydd yn y Cynllun Cydnabod Cyflogwr yr Amddiffyn.

Y Rhesymau:

Yn genedlaethol mae bob Cyngor Sir wedi arwyddo Cyfamod Cymunedol y Lluoedd Arfog, fe wnaeth Sir Gâr hynny yn 2013. Er ei fod dal yn gyfredol, mae'r Cyfamod Cymunedol wedi esblygu i fod yn Gyfamod ar gyfer y Lluoedd Arfog gyfan – sy'n golygu bod mwy o brosesau canolog wedi eu datblygu a mwy o gydweithio i gasglu gwybodaeth, monitro ac adrodd trwy'r CLILC a Llywodraeth Cymru. Anogir bob Cyngor i arwyddo'r Cyfamod Lluoedd Arfog.

Mae arwyddo'r Cyfamod Lluoedd Arfog yn gam cyntaf amodol ar gyfer y Cynllun Cydnabod Cyflogwr sy'n annog cyflogwyr i gefnogi'r amddiffyn ac ysbrydoli eraill i wneud yn yr un modd. Mae'r cynllun yn cynnig gwobrau efydd, arian ac aur i gyflogwyr sy'n ymrwmo i, dangos cynnydd neu'n eiriolwr cefnogaeth i'r amddiffyn a'r gymuned lluoedd arfog, gan ddilyn gwerthoedd y Cyfamod Lluoedd Arfog.

Ymgynghorwyd â'r pwyllgor craffu perthnasol AMHERTHNASOL

Angen i'r Bwrdd Gweithredol wneud penderfyniad OES

Angen i'r Cyngor wneud penderfyniad NAC OES

YR AELOD O'R BWRDD GWEITHREDOL SY'N GYFRIFOL AM Y PORTFFOLIO:- Y Cyngorydd David Jenkins

Y Gyfarwyddiaeth:

Prif Weithredwr

Enw Pennaeth y Gwasanaeth:

Noelwyn Daniel

Awdur yr Adroddiad:

Gwyneth Ayers

Swyddi:

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Executive Board 27.07.20

Armed Forces (AF) Covenant and Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (DERS) Bronze Award

The Armed Forces Covenant

The AF Covenant represents a pledge that those who serve in the Armed Forces (AF), whether Regular or Reserve, and those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and services. There is also acknowledgement that special consideration may be appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most, such as the injured and the bereaved.

There are currently no definitive and comprehensive statistics on the size or demographics of the Armed Forces community within Carmarthenshire. This includes serving Regular and Reserve personnel, veterans, and their families. However, following a campaign by the Royal British Legion during 2016, there has been an agreement to ensure that the 2021 census includes questions regarding the Armed Forces community.

The Armed Forces Act 2011 created the requirement for an annual AF Covenant report to UK Parliament each year, setting out how the UK Government supports our Armed Forces, their families and veterans in key areas such as healthcare, housing and education.

The Welsh Government launched the first Wales AF Covenant Annual Report on 16th May 2019. The report has been laid in the National Assembly for Wales and outlines plans and initiatives in place to support the AF community across Wales over the next 12 months. It has been widely publicised, and the collaborative, partnership-based outcomes and actions have been endorsed by the Minister for Housing and Local Government.

Our work in Carmarthenshire

Carmarthenshire County Council signed up to the Community Covenant in 2013 and has been supporting the forces community. However, following further developments at a national level, the Community Covenant has now evolved into a wider AF Covenant and it is therefore an opportune moment for this work to be recognised more formally by refreshing the commitment. Doing so would demonstrate both the Council's continued support for the AF community and assure national alignment.

As part of our commitment to the Community Covenant, examples of our work include:

- The appointment of a Regional Armed Forces Officer to lead on the delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant across Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire through funding from the Ministry of Defence and the Welsh Government
- Access to 'Veterans Hubs' funding to strengthen links with third sector organisations to provide advice, support and referrals and additional support for awareness raising events in key areas of the county
- Working with colleagues in Education and Children's Services to look at supporting Service Children in Education and building an evidence base upon which to target the available support and resources where it is needed

- Working with colleagues in Homes and Safer Communities to promote the support available for the Armed Forces community and to strengthen links with external agencies such as SSAFA and the Royal British Legion
- Hosting various events and drop in sessions through services such as yr Hwb and the Help for Heroes support at Carmarthen Leisure Centre.

In addition to the Covenant, it is recommended that the Council applies for the DERS Bronze Award. This action would demonstrate the Council's commitment to being armed forces-friendly and open to employing reservists, armed forces veterans (including the wounded, injured and sick), cadet instructors and military spouses/partners. In return Carmarthenshire County Council would be registered on a public database and receive an electronic certificate and logos for appropriate display. The requirements for achieving this award are outlined in Section 1: Principles of The Armed Forces Covenant and Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment of the attached Armed Forces Covenant.

Once Carmarthenshire County Council has signed the AF Covenant and gained the Bronze DERS Award (through self-nomination) consideration can then be given to whether the Council would wish to progress to the Silver and then subsequently the Gold Award, which have additional requirements to fulfil these standards.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES - Armed Forces Covenant
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Noelwyn Daniel Head of ICT & Corporate Policy

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

There are no additional implications to be considered before the County self-nominates for the Bronze DERS Award. In order to achieve this status the Council needs to demonstrate it is a 'supportive organisation' and we believe that the steps taken since 2013 in signing the Community Covenant, appointing an Armed Forces Champion, working with the Council's service departments to develop provision and being proactive in terms of partnership work with other agencies and organisations would fulfil this requirement. Several Welsh local authorities are already recognised as part of the awards and Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire Councils are also working towards their recognition at the moment.

3. Finance

A regional Armed Forces Liaison Officer has been appointed to work across Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire councils with funding secured through the Ministry of Defence and Welsh Government.

7. Staffing Implications

Support for the AF Covenant and DERS application have been discussed and agreed with colleagues in People Management who are confident that we can fulfil the requirements to achieve the Bronze Award as outlined in Section 1 a 2 of the Covenant.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below
Signed: Noelwyn Daniel Head of ICT & Corporate Policy

1. Scrutiny Committee N/A

2. Local Member(s) N/A

3. Community / Town Council N/A

4. Relevant Partners

The Council lead on co-ordinating the Carmarthenshire Armed Forces Steering Group and supports the Regional Armed Forces Forum which are both key for a for engaging with local and regional partners.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
The Welsh Government's Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report 2018		Cymraeg: https://llyw.cymru/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/llywodraeth-cymru-adroddiad-blynyddol-2018.pdf English: https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/armed-forces-covenant-annual-report-2018.pdf