



Borough of Tamworth

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## HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 September 2024

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will be held in **Town Hall, Market Street, Tamworth on Tuesday, 17th September, 2024 at 6.00 pm**. Members of the Committee are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. C. V.'.

Chief Executive

### A G E N D A

### NON CONFIDENTIAL

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 12)
- 3 Declarations of Interest

*To receive any declarations of Members' interests (personal and/or personal and prejudicial) in any matters which are to be considered at this meeting.*

*When Members are declaring a personal interest or personal and prejudicial interest in respect of which they have dispensation, they should specify the nature of such interest. Members should leave the room if they have a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of which they do not have a dispensation.*

**4 Update from the Chair**

**5 Responses to Reports of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**

*(Update on responses to the Reports of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee)*

**6 Consideration of matters referred to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee from Cabinet or Council**

*(Discussion item)*

**7 Update on health related matters considered by Staffordshire County Council (Pages 13 - 16)**

*(To receive the Digest from Staffordshire County Council's Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and an update from County Councillor J Jones)*

**8 Housing Strategy Bi-Annual Update to 30 June 2024 (To Follow)**

*(Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Homelessness and planning/Assistant Director, Partnerships)*

**9 Briefing Note Armed Forces Covenant Plan update (Pages 17 - 26)**

*(Briefing Note – Report of the Assistant Director, Partnerships)*

**10 Working Group Updates**

*To provide any update on any working groups*

**11 Forward Plan**

*(Discussion item – link to the Forward Plan attached)*

[Browse plans - Cabinet, 2024 :: Tamworth Borough Council](#)

## **12 Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Plan (Pages 27 - 30)**

*(Discussion Item - To review the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Plan)*

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### **Access arrangements**

*If you have any particular access requirements when attending the meeting, please contact Democratic Services on 01827 709267 or e-mail [democratic-services@tamworth.gov.uk](mailto:democratic-services@tamworth.gov.uk). We can then endeavour to ensure that any particular requirements you may have are catered for.*

### **Filming of Meetings**

*The public part of this meeting may be filmed and broadcast. Please refer to the Council's Protocol on Filming, Videoing, Photography and Audio Recording at Council meetings which can be found [here](#) for further information.*

*If a member of the public is particularly concerned about being filmed, please contact a member of Democratic Services before selecting a seat.*

### **FAQs**

*For further information about the Council's Committee arrangements please see the FAQ page [here](#)*

To Councillors: C Bain, M Bailey, R Claymore, S Doyle, H Hadley, P Pallett, N Statham, P Turner and A Wells

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 16th JULY 2024**

**PRESENT:** Councillor C Bain (Chair), Councillors R Claymore, S Doyle, H Hadley, P Pallett, P Turner and A Wells

**CABINET** Councillor Carol Dean  
Councillor Lewis Smith

The following officers were present: Rob Barnes (Executive Director Communities), Joanne Sands (Assistant Director Partnerships), Paul Weston (Assistant Director Assets), Lucy Mitchell (Disabled Adaptations Manager), Leanne Costello (Senior Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officer) and Laura Sandland (Democratic and Executive Support Officer)

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Bailey and Natalie Statham. Apologies were also received from County Councillor J Jones.

Apologies were also received from Councillor A Wells that he would be arriving late to meeting. Councillor Wells arrived at 6:15pm.

**2 APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-CHAIR**

Councillor R Claymore was appointed as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

*(Moved by Councillor C Bain and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)*

**3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were approved as a correct record.

*(As the only member of the committee 2023/24 Councillor C Bain moved the minutes as a correct record)*

#### **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **5 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair highlighted to the Committee that a meeting of the Staffordshire County Council Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee is on the 17<sup>th</sup> July and the that Members could watch the meeting and that the items discussed would impact on the borough. It was highlighted that Democratic Services would share the link to the agenda.

The Chair also asked the Committee if they had any objections to the meeting of the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 being moved to the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The Committee did not raise any objections.

#### **6 RESPONSES TO REPORTS OF THE HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were none.

#### **7 CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REFERRED TO THE HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FROM CABINET OR COUNCIL**

There were none.

#### **8 UPDATE ON HEALTH RELATED MATTERS CONSIDERED BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Chair confirmed that there is a County Council representative on the Committee, County Councillor J Jones and that apologies had been received from them.

We have also not received a digest to share.

#### **9 ARMED FORCES COVENANT UPDATE 2024**

Councillor Wells arrived at 6:15pm.

The Chair welcome the Assistant Director, Partnerships and the Portfolio Holder for People, Services, Leisure & Engagement to introduce the report on work done to ensure the Council meets its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and associated plan.

The Portfolio Holder introduced the item highlighting that the report was returning following endorsement by Cabinet in July 2023 with the agreement that the Committee would receive an annual update. The Portfolio Holder thanked Officers for the work done in this area and highlighted the key successes of the Council listed in the report.

The Assistant Director thanked the team and HR for the work done in this area and recognised this as a good new story.

The Committee made the following comments/observations and asked the following questions:

1. In section 7.2 of the action plan, it states that Cllr Smith is to be the Armed Forces Champion and how this sits within the Constitution, also whether a recommendation had gone to last years Cabinet that an appropriate Champion be selected and where possible this should be a member of the veteran's community?

The Chair confirmed that the Constitution states that a Member of the Cabinet cannot be a Champion.

The Officer confirmed that the Armed Forces is named within the Cabinet Members portfolio but the use of the word champion within the action plan could be reviewed.

The Committee agree that it could not endorse the action plan (recommendation one) until the action plan has been updated.

2. In Section 1.3 of the action plan in connection with the prominent anniversary of VE Day, the wording 'consider events' is used. Would it be more appropriate to use the wording 'plan events'?

The Officer confirmed that the first planning meeting for this event had already taken place and the wording for this matter could be changed.

3. Is it possible to get a breakdown of the budget allocation and how this was used for the Royal British Legions?

The Officer confirmed that they would investigate this and come back to the Committee.

A motion was moved to recommend to Cabinet that the Council continues to financially support the Royal British Legion in organising Armed Forces Day events. The motion was not carried.

The Committee commented that there would several organisations that would benefit from the Councils support and that this should be looked at.

**The Committee did not move the recommendation to:**

1. Endorse the updated Tamworth Borough Council Armed Forces Covenant work plan.

**Resolved that the Committee:**

2. Recognised and affirmed the award to Tamworth Borough Council of the Silver Employee Recognition Scheme Award.

*(Moved by Councillor C Bain and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)*

## 10 DISABLED ADAPTATIONS POLICY

The Chair welcomed the Assistant Director Assets, Paul Weston, and the Disabled Adaptation Manager, Lucy Mitchell, and the Leader of the Council who was there in the absence of the Portfolio Holder for the report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Homelessness and Planning to review and consider the proposed draft Housing Assistance Policy (Appendix A) for the delivery of mandatory and discretionary Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs), prior to submission to Cabinet for full approval and adoption for private sector delivery, and in the interim period of not having a Council Adaptations Policy, consider the policy foundations within this Policy for Council delivery.

In addition, review and consider the Interim Policy Position Statement (IPPS) for Council adaptations in scenarios where the Council can reject, refuse or pending permission, for example where tenants are intending to purchase their property, are in arrears or facing eviction action, or are looking to move home and the exceptional circumstances for applying discretion (Appendix B).

The Leader of the Council introduced the report before handing over to the Assistant Director who thanked the team for their work on the reports. They highlighted that there are applications for discretionary fundings for adaptations which cannot move forward until the policy is in place as well as providing transparency in this area.

The Committee made the following comments/observations and asked the following questions:

1. What expert advice did Officers receive when they were writing point 3.9 C of the policy, how many tariff levels there are and whether the Officer was aware of how many conditions that this would exclude?

The Officer confirmed that no specific advice had been taken but this part of the policy was written in line with the Government recommendations, the wording contained within the policy allows the Council to claim back money from the Government for DFG purposes.

With regards to the number of tariffs this is something that they could come back to the Committee on and the Officer agreed to provide a copy of the data that was used for points 3.9 C and D.

In terms of those excluded by this there is a policy foundation and a discretionary element. If there are additional factors that need to be considered then they would be.

A motion was proposed that Cabinet removes lines C and D from section 2.9 in the draft, this was not carried.

2. The Committee acknowledged the work that had gone into the policy and that the Council are providing a much-needed service and that massive efforts have been made since the changeover of the service.
3. As this is the policy, how we are going to do this, what are we currently implementing and what are the challenges?

The Officer confirmed that the service is being delivered within the statutory framework, but the policy outlines the terms and conditions around that and allows the Council to offer the four discretionary grants. It



was confirmed that all mandatory grants are going through as legislation requires. The discretionary schemes would be relatively easy to set up as they sit on the back on the mandatory grants and the applicants are already known to them.

4. What are the challenges for delivering on the ground and are we doing this?

The Officer confirmed that we are now delivering grants and have a foundation in place to deliver a safe grant adaptation service.

5. How do we effectively prioritise a moving list? Do we have a contingency where if someone urgent comes to us that we won't have to say we have run out of money?

It was confirmed that all new enquiries are triaged within 6 weeks, to check if they are eligible and can move forward. We are also operating a triage plus process, whilst they are waiting for caseworker resource work is being undertaken to get landlord permissions, OT assessments etc to work smarter and save time.

6. It has been reported that some local authorities do not have the money to meet their legal requirements.

The Officer confirmed that as they currently have a backlog of cases they do have a surplus of funds but it is expected based on historical data that the Council will run out of funding, and if that is the case a budgetary proposal will be put forward for Members to make a strategic decision. Tamworth receives a far lower settlement than other areas and has been this way since 2008. The formula to set this looks at population density and disability data from 2008 which is outdated. Tamworth also has a difficult to adapt housing stock and bill costs have risen but the grant rise has not matched this.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that the Portfolio holder has written to Government to request that the Borough's grant allocation be reviewed and that they would be lobbying the Leaders board and other Committees they sit on.

7. Clarification over whether County Council sets the limit that each area gets?

The Assistant Director confirmed that budgets are set by Central Government but paid through the Bettercare fund and therefore goes through the County Council, but the County has no say over the allocation.

8. How many people are on the waiting list.

The Officer confirmed that across Council adaptations and DFG that there were 300 people on the waiting list, at various stages, some are at triage stage, some have work on site and some are at tying up stages.

**Resolved that the Committee:**

1. Reviewed and considered the proposed assistance provided by the Council under the draft Housing Assistance Policy (Appendix A)
2. Commented on the inclusion of various 'Discretionary Schemes' proposed.
3. Formally recommend the Policy to Cabinet for approval and adoption in

August.

4. Allowed for utilisation of the Policy to cover Council adaptations until such a time as a separate Policy can be prepared and submitted to this Committee for review.
5. Recommend the Interim Policy Position Statement for Council adaptations (Appendix B) to Cabinet for formal adoption.

*(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor R Claymore)*

## **11 FORWARD PLAN**

There were no items identified from the Forward Plan.

## **12 WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

The Committee proposed setting up a Disabled Facilities Grants working group to support the Officers.

## **13 HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY WORK PLAN**

The Committee received the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Plan. The Chair highlight that the Committee are due to the receive the Housing Strategy Update at the next meeting in September.

## **14 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

To consider excluding the Press and Public from the meeting by passing the following resolution:-

“That in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meeting and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, and Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public”

*(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor R Claymore)*

## **15 DISABLED ADAPTATIONS SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning presents several key proposals that collectively lead towards the development of the adaptations service.

The Committee did not move the first recommendation.

**Resolved that the Committee:**

1. Endorsed recommendations 2-5 within the report

*(Move by Councillor C Bain and seconded by Councillor R Claymore)*

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Chair

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**Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee****District and Borough Council Digest**

Under the Health Scrutiny Code of Joint Working with District and Borough Councils, Authorities have undertaken to keep relevant Partners informed of their consideration of health matters having regard to the general working principle of co-operation and the need to ensure a co-ordinated Staffordshire approach. Therefore, the following is a summary of the business transacted at the meetings of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 17 and 29 July 2024.

**Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee****SSOT ICB Performance**

The Committee considered the SSOT ICB performance and received an overview of key underpinning deliverables in 7 portfolio headings:

- Children and Young People/ Maternity
- Planned Care, Diagnostics & Cancer
- Improving Population Health
- Urgent and Emergency Care
- Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism
- Primary Care
- End of Life, LTCS and Frailty

The Committee noted the report and requested to receive an update on the Dental Strategy to Committee (scheduled on the Work Programme for January 2025) and an update detailing the challenges, financial investment and the ICBs plan to reduce the waiting time for autism assessment.

**24/25 System Operational Plan**

The Committee considered the 24/25 operational plan.

It was reported that within the plan there were 2 key aims and 5 high level operational priorities:

Aims:

- Safe, timely and sustainable care.
- Meeting the capacity challenge

High Level operational priorities:

- Eliminate delays in access to treatment and long waits for care
- Improving access to high quality sustainable primary care
- Delivering joined up proactive and preventative support and care across all pathways
- Delivering compassionate care of the frail and elderly.
- Supporting Care Home Residents

The ICB had agreed a financial recovery programme which was a core part of the operational plan and was essential in the return to a sustainable financial position for the system. The deficit for 2023/24 was £91million.

The Committee received the report.

## **Urgent and Emergency Care Strategy, Lessons learned from Winter and Urgent treatment Centre designation**

The Committee considered a report from the ICB on Urgent and Emergency Care Strategy, Lessons learned from Winter and Urgent treatment Centre designation

The Committee were advised that as a recurrent part of the ICS Winter Surge Planning process a thorough assessment and review of the plan's effectiveness post winter would take place. It was reported that a system wide lessons learnt workshop event was held on 17 April 2024.

The Committee were also advised that in July 2017, NHS England produced Principles and Standards to be achieved for the formal designation of Urgent Treatment Centres. System partners had developed recommendations for designating Urgent Treatment Centres across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent aligning with the Urgent and Emergency Care Strategy. It was reported that the promotion of engagement activity events would begin in July 2024 for 10 weeks.

As part of the engagement for Urgent Treatment Centres, there would be discussions about the sites which did not meet the UTC specification and the future model of services.

The Committee requested to receive an update on Cannock Chase MIU and received the report.

## **Plan for Commissioning Care Homes and Development of Additional Nursing Capacity.**

The Committee considered the plan for commissioning care homes and development of additional nursing capacity and were informed that there were 250 care homes in Staffordshire and 7950 beds registered with the CQC.

The Committee noted and endorsed the need to replace two current care homes and Meadowrythe and Bracken House and noted the opportunity to do that and provide additional capacity with two new build homes.

The Committee made three recommendations relating to the new build homes and received the report.

## **Maternity Services update.**

The Committee received two reports relating to Maternity services, a general overview and an update to the Intrapartum services previously provided at County Hospital and Samuel Johnson Community Hospital.

The Committee commented that the report was weighted towards the north of the County and requested an update for the whole County.

The Committee were informed that a technical event held in September 2023, clinicians reviewed seven potential proposals to develop a shortlist of viable proposals for the Freestanding Midwifery Birthing Units (FMBU). At the event it was recommended that there was only one viable option which was to make permanent the temporary closure of the FMBUs.

The Committee made a number of recommendations including that the consultation should be for 12 weeks to allow input from District and Borough Councils and that the demographic data relied on in the report be updated due to new and ongoing development in the County.

### **Health Impacts of Walleys Quarry**

The Committee received representations from the County Council's Director of Public Health, the UK Health Security Agency and the Environment Agency.

It was reported that the results for hydrogen sulphide in May 2024 were above the World Health Organisation odour annoyance guideline value for a significant percentage of the time at the monitoring station MMF9 and a considerable percentage of the time at the monitoring station MMF1.

The UKHSA reported that the risk to long term health cannot be excluded, where concentrations were above the long-term health-based guidance value. Currently the risk was likely to be small, but the longer the exposure is above the US Environment Protection Agency RfC, the greater any potential risk.

The Committee endorsed the UKHSAs strong recommendation that all measures be taken to reduce the off-site odours from the landfill site, to reduce the health impacts experienced in the local community and agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to re-highlight local concerns to resolve the issues at the site.

To see the reports in full and view the webcast of the meeting see the links below:

[Browse meetings - Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Staffordshire County Council](#)

The next meeting will be held on Monday 23 September 2024 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.

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## **Briefing Note for Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

### **Report of the Assistant Director Partnerships**

#### **Updated Armed Forces Covenant Plan**

#### **Exempt Information:**

None

#### **Purpose of the Briefing note:**

Update on the Armed Forces Covenant plan discussed at the Committee on 16 July 2024

#### **Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Consider the information in the briefing note in relation to the queries at the meeting on 16 July 2024
2. Endorse proposals for a named Council Lead Member and the updated Armed Forces Covenant plan and

#### **Executive Summary**

The updated Armed Forces Covenant plan was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The Committee agreed that it could not endorse the action plan (recommendation one) until the action plan has been updated.

The Committee made the following comments/observations and asked the following questions:

In section 7.2 of the action plan, it states that Cllr Smith is to be the Armed Forces Champion and how this sits within the Constitution, also whether a recommendation had gone to last year Cabinet that an appropriate Champion be selected and where possible this should be a member of the veteran's community?

Following advice from Nikkie Hesketh, Monitoring Officer around the questions raised by Cllr Turner about Armed Forces Champion, the update is as follows:

- Cabinet Members cannot be Champions
- No formal recommendation to Cabinet has been agreed that the Champion must be an armed forces veteran and not the Portfolio holder.
- The Armed Forces Covenant Duty suggests that there is no mandatory requirement to appoint or name an elected member champion. It does offer actions that we might wish to consider adopting.

- Cabinet Delegated authority to the then Portfolio Holder for Entertainment and Leisure and Assistant Director Partnerships to have responsibility for and oversee the associated work plan and report on an annual basis to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 20th July, 2023, 6.00 pm )
- The Armed Forces Covenant has now been placed in the renewed responsibilities of the Portfolio Holder for People Services, Leisure and Engagement, Councillor Lewis Smith for 2024/2025 onwards as Lead Member

The Monitoring Officer is of the view that it is a reasonable approach to changing the terminology to Lead Member (a Champion by another name). In effect the argument is that the Lead Member should be a senior/executive member in order that they have the authority to make sure the covenant is being properly implemented and upheld.

The updated the plan (attached) now refers to Lead member.

In Section 1.3 of the action plan in connection with the prominent anniversary of VE Day, the wording 'consider events' is used.

The discussion point around changing the wording of the plan from 'consider events' to 'plan events' for VE Day 80 has also been updated and the commemoration is now on the events planner

Is it possible to get a breakdown of the budget allocation and how this was used for the Royal British Legions?

A further question was asked about understanding the detailed expenditure on a £1000 grant to Royal British Legion to ensure Armed Forces Day events. The following information has been obtained:

- A proposed policy change to grant the RBL £1000 for hire of the Castle Lower Lawn to promote Armed Forces Day was unintentionally omitted from budget policy changes for 2024/25. As such the hire charges for Armed Forces Day 2024 have been waived on this occasion.
- A budget policy change will be submitted for 2024/25 to Cabinet this year as part of the budget setting process for consideration moving forward.

**Background:**

Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**Key issues/Risks (If applicable):**

As per original report

**Resource Implications (If applicable):**

As per original report

**Report Author**

Jo Sands, Assistant Director Partnerships

**Contact information:** [joanne-sands@tamworth.gov.uk](mailto:joanne-sands@tamworth.gov.uk)

**Appendices (If appropriate):**

Updated Armed Forces Covenant plan 2024

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**Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan  
Tamworth Borough Council  
April 2023 – March 2025 (Update June 2024)**

The Armed Forces Covenant defines the general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community and has several key principles

- Members of the Armed Forces Community should not face disadvantages arising from their service in the provision of public and commercial services.
- In some circumstances special provision may be justified, especially for those who have given the most, such as the injured or bereaved.

It also seeks to encourage local communities to develop a relationship with the service community in their area.

Tamworth Borough Council, alongside all local authorities within Staffordshire re-signed the Staffordshire Covenant to reaffirm our commitment to the Armed Forces Community following the Armed Forces Act 2021

Every Local Authority adhering to the Covenant is committed to produce and publish an Action Plan to underpin the Covenant. This forms part of the 'Core infrastructure for Covenant Delivery' which includes naming an Armed Forces Champion. This action plan sets out the overall direction of the Covenant and helps ensure the Council keeps on track with its commitments.

Armed Forces Action Plan		
Aims	Actions	Comments/ Date for Next Review
<b>1. Recognise and remember the sacrifices and challenges faced by the Armed Forces community.</b>	<b>1.1 Remembrance and Recognition Days</b> Promote participation in, and support events and functions, to celebrate and remember the sacrifices of Armed Forces personnel, both past and present. Armed Forces 'Remembrance and Recognition' days to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armed Forces day (June 29<sup>th</sup> 2024, June 28<sup>th</sup> 2025)</li> <li>• Poppy Appeal (October/November)</li> <li>• Remembrance Sunday (Nearest Sunday to 11<sup>th</sup> November)</li> <li>• Armistice day (November 11<sup>th</sup>)</li> </ul>	Next review 2025 Events in calendar Flags on Marmion House and the Castle Lighting of castle
	<b>1.2 Maintain Mercian Regiment Freedom of the Borough</b> Promote and support Freedom of Borough events and parade	Ongoing and supported on request
	<b>1.3 Plan Events for 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day</b> May 2025	Discussions and planning meetings commenced July 2024 to include Arts & Events Teams and external armed forces charities groups Link to national events
<b>2. Promote understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community</b>	<b>2.1 Publicise the Commitments made in the Armed Forces Covenant</b> Publicise Tamworth's commitment to Armed Forces personnel, and their families, receiving equal access and opportunity	Endorsement through Cabinet July 2023 Link to County plan and pages  New TBC web content live on <a href="#">website</a> .  Promotion of Silver Employer Recognition Scheme award once embargo is lifted.(after 4 <sup>th</sup> July)  Increased promotion of links on social media sites for TBC and Castle including involvement of armed forces community in events  TBC presence and promotion on <a href="#">Troopr</a>

		platform and armed forces families/veterans recruitment websites.
<b>3. Encourage the local community to support the Armed Forces community in the Borough</b>	<b>3.1 Community Volunteering</b> Encourage collaborative community volunteering by signposting to charities and volunteering opportunities in the district.	To link back to County plan and through Staffordshire Connects. Webpage information  Encourage VCSE partners to sign up to the pledge and promote volunteering opportunities
<b>4. Encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life</b>	<b>4.1 Signpost</b> Direct Armed Forces Community members to volunteering opportunities, additional support, services, sports clubs, charities	Webpage links to Support Staffs Voluntary Organisations and Staffordshire Connects
	<b>4.2 Promote best practice engagement with communities</b> Work with Staffordshire County/Armed Forces to identify and promote examples of good practice for community engagement and integration across Staffordshire	Promote on social media platforms as examples occur/ Link to Staffordshire Armed Forces communications plan
<b>5. 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, utilising funding obtained through the Community Covenant Grant scheme as appropriate</b>	<b>5.1 Volunteering and Community Action</b> Support members of the Armed Forces Community to access volunteering and community action opportunities, especially for Forces personnel during transition	Support Staffordshire engagement/VCSE promotion  Work with contractors such as Wates to promote and support community action projects.  Encourage contractors and wider business engagement to sign covenant
	<b>5.2 Access to Council Services</b> Support Armed Forces Personnel, and their families, as well as service leavers and veterans to access Tamworth Borough Council Services.	To be directed via web page  Armed Forces Covenant webpage outlining TBC support for armed forces added to new website and housing factsheet for veterans.

<p><b>6. Provide advice, support and information to service personnel regarding their housing needs</b></p> <p><b>STATUTORY ARMED FORCES HOUSING DUTY</b></p>	<p><b>6.1 Housing Allocations Scheme</b> Priority status is awarded to Armed Forces personnel that meet the criteria set out in the 2017 Housing Allocations Scheme.</p>	Policy is compliant
	<p><b>6.2 Support and Advice</b> Promote the Veterans' Housing Advice Service. This service provides a pathway for ex-Service personnel in housing need by supporting them to move into a permanent home.</p>	<p>Link to the VHAS and other support organisations on our webpages</p> <p>Include links to Disabled Facilities Grants information</p>
	<p><b>6.3 Homelessness</b>  Armed Forces personnel are considered as per current legislation with the aim of understanding any concerns relating to service leavers at risk of homelessness within the Borough and possible solutions.</p>	<p>Policy is compliant</p> <p><a href="#">Homelessness</a> advice is available on our website</p>
<p><b>7. Maintain core infrastructure for Covenant delivery</b></p>	<p><b>7.1 Tamworth BC to be represented on Staffordshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board</b> Armed Forces leads to attend the working group</p>	Community Cohesion Officer to attend and action in conjunction with AD Partnerships
	<p><b>7.2 Name an Armed Forces Lead Member and Armed Forces council officer lead</b></p>	<p><b>Armed Forces Lead Member: Councillor Lewis Smith</b></p> <p>Armed Forces officer lead: Jo Sands, Assistant Director Partnerships/Anna McLauchlan, Community Cohesion Officer</p>
	<p><b>7.3 Tamworth Borough Council Armed Forces Action Plan</b> The Armed Forces Action Plan will be updated annually.</p>	Progress to be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee – in place annually
<p><b>8. Support the recruitment of members of the Armed Forces community</b></p>	<p><b>8.1 HR Policies</b> Ensure due regard to Armed Forces Covenant</p>	<p>Annual Leave/Reservist Policies compliant and recently updated to meet Gold ERS standard.</p> <p>Community Impact Assessment for all</p>



		policies to include reference to Covenant Duty
	<p><b>8.2 Consider The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme</b>  The Scheme recognises employers who support defence and the armed forces community.  <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-employer-recognition-scheme/defence-employer-recognition-scheme">www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-employer-recognition-scheme/defence-employer-recognition-scheme</a></p>	TBC has successfully achieved Silver status (being awarded Sept 2024) updates to website and Troopr page with Silver logo once received.
	<p><b>8.3 Encourage Business Community to sign up to Covenant</b></p>	Part of County plan and to be included in webpage links. Communications to be shared with Chamber of Commerce/wider business community (AM)

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**Tamworth Borough Council**  
**Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Plan**  
**2024 - 2025**

To provide effective scrutiny of the achievement of the Council's strategic priorities by scrutinising the performance of the Executive and external providers in securing a safe environment in which local people can reach their full potential and live longer, healthier lives :-

- Statutory Health Obligation
- Leisure
- Voluntary Sector
- Non HRA Housing
- Disability Service
- Social Care
- Elderly and Vulnerable People Services

To undertake such other scrutiny activities relevant to the committee's scope, as may be required in relation to the performance of the Council, governance, financial management and discharge of statutory functions.

Membership: (The Committee shall comprise 9 members of the Council and one co-opted member with voting rights being a member nominated by Staffordshire County Council) :

Chair: Councillor Chris Bain

Committee Members: Councillors M Bailey, R Claymore, S Doyle, H Hadley, P Pallett, N Statham, P Turner, A Wells

County Council Representative: Councillor Jason Jones

Date	Issue	Reason	Lead Officer	Lead Member
17 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Housing Strategy update	Previous quarterly update – now annual	AD, Partnerships	Housing & Homelessness/Planning
	Armed Forces Covenant	(Briefing Note)		
24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Safeguarding Update	Twice Yearly	AD, Partnerships	People Services, Leisure & Engagement
TBC	Wellbeing Strategy	Follow on – Last update 28.11.23 To return to committee 2024		

**Items Considered/Recommendations to Cabinet/Further Action**

Date of meeting	Item	Action	Cabinet Meeting Date	Response from Cabinet /Any further action
16/07/24	Armed Forces Covenant	Review action plan	NA	Briefing note to be presented at the meeting on the 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2024

**Items Considered/No further action**

Date of meeting	Item	Action
16/07/24	Disabled Adaptations Policy	Recommendations endorsed
	Disabled Adaptations Service Development Plan	Recommendations endorsed

**Working Groups**

Working Group	Members	Current Work

**Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Meetings**

Meeting dates :	26/11/24
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17/09/24  
24/10/24

11/02/25  
20/03/24

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