



South Tyneside Council

item 6

Appointment to Armed Forces Forum 2026/27 (Cabinet)

This document has been classified as: **Not
protectively marked**

**John Rumney, Head of Legal and Governance and
Deputy Monitoring Officer – 0191 424 7267
Cabinet – 27 May 2026**

Report to the Executive (Cabinet)

Cabinet Portfolio/Lead Member: Councillor Mackings – Leader of the Council

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Subject: Appointment to Armed Forces Forum 2026/27

Date: 27 May 2026

Wards affected: all

Council ambitions: all

Does the report and any appendices contain information which has been identified as confidential or exempt?

- No, this report does not contain information identified as confidential or exempt.

For Executive Decisions only:

Is the decision a Key Decision? No

Is it included in the Forward Plan? No

If not in the Forward Plan is the report: General Exception Rule / Special Urgency Rule

Relevant Scrutiny Chair: N/A

Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny? No

(If the decision is anything other than any executive decision made by the Cabinet or a Key Decision made by an officer under delegated powers, call-in is not applicable. This should be explained in the report).

Purpose of Report

1. Cabinet is required to agree the membership of the Armed Forces Member for the new Municipal Year.
2. Cabinet is requested to consider the appointment of an Armed Forces Member Champion who will act as an advocate for the Armed Forces community in South Tyneside. The Armed Forces Member Champion will also act as Chair of the Armed Forces Forum.

Background Information

3. In December 2011 South Tyneside Council, representatives of the Charitable and Voluntary Sectors, the Civilian Community of South Tyneside, and the Armed Forces Community in South Tyneside signed a Community Covenant agreeing to work and act together to honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant. This was replaced by the Armed Forces Covenant which the Council signed in March 2019. This commitment was reaffirmed at a signing by the Council in January 2026, which is also incorporated the Merchant Navy in the Armed Forces Covenant.
4. The purpose of the Armed Forces Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in South Tyneside, as well as recognising and remembering the sacrifices made by members of the local Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel, including the Merchant Navy, their families and widow(er)s in South Tyneside.
5. In 2018, the Council was recognised by the Ministry of Defence as a 'Gold' Award Holder in its Employer Recognition Scheme for Council employment working practices, as well as its work as an advocate for Armed Forces.
6. In October 2023, the Council was revalidated as a 'Gold' Award Holder, recognising a consistent commitment to support those serving, those who have served and dependants and family members of those in the Armed Forces who are employed by the Council, or those in the community who access advice or support.
7. The Council has an Armed Forces Forum, which includes representation from the local reserve unit and the Ministry of Defence. The Forum develops an Action Plan, in collaboration with partner organisations and representatives from the Armed Forces Community, to ensure the Council continues to strive to improve support for the Armed Forces community in South Tyneside.

Main issues and Options to be Considered

8. The current membership of the Armed Forces Forum includes representatives for the organisations listed below:

Armed Forces Forum Membership
Armed Forces Member Champion (Chair)
Armed Forces Veterans – Elected Member Representatives
101 Regiment (205 Battery)
Demob Job (Engineering and Technical ex-Military Recruitment Agency)
Department for Work and Pensions
Durham Light Infantry
Local Cadet Forces
Merchant Navy Welfare Board
Ministry of Defence
NAAFI Break
North of England Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association
Northumbria Police
Royal British Legion
South Tyneside Adult Recovery Service
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
South Tyneside Housing Services
South Tyneside Lifecycle Primary Care Mental Health Service
The Rifles
Third Sector Representatives (Food Banks)
Veterans for Veterans in Care
Veteran's Response
Walking with the Wounded

9. The Armed Forces Forum is supported with regular attendance from teams across the Council, including the Community Engagement Officer, the Events Team, Housing Services, Civic Office, Legal and Governance, and Policy and Insight.
10. The Chair may invite other partner organisations and stakeholders as appropriate to meetings of the Armed Forces Forum in order to support engagement with those in the Armed Forces and Merchant Navy community.

Recommendations

11. The Cabinet approve the membership of the Armed Forces Forum.
12. The Cabinet appoint an Armed Forces Member Champion.
13. The Cabinet grant the Chair of the Armed Forces (Armed Forces Member Champion) the discretion to invite partner organisations and stakeholders to Armed Forces Forum meetings as Armed Forces appropriate.

Reasons for Recommendations

14. To enable the Armed Forces Forum to continue with their work, implementing their action plan to support the Armed Forces and Merchant Navy community in South Tyneside.

List of Appendices

None

Appointment to Armed Forces Forum 2026/27

The following is a list of the background papers (excluding exempt papers) relied upon in the preparation of the above report:

Background Paper	File Ref:	File Location