

## OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

**Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Board**

Purpose: To champion the welfare of the Armed Forces community in-line with the Hertfordshire Covenant.

East Herts Council Representative(s): Cllr Andrew Huggins

Update:

The Covenant Board met twice this year, via virtual meeting. The Board has representatives from all District and Borough Councils within Hertfordshire, members from the emergency services, reps from two military charities and other interested stakeholders.

The welfare of the Armed Forces, both serving personnel and veterans, remains high in the Government's priorities. Within Hertfordshire, the Board seeks to promote the Armed Forces and ensure that Veterans have full access to public services and are celebrated for the work they do. The Government passed the Armed Forces Act 2021, which has ramifications throughout local government. In order to better address this legislation, the Covenant Board is in the process of creating two further sub-committees, namely housing and education, that will add to the work already being done by the health sub group.

Last year, Hertfordshire celebrated the ten-year anniversary of the signing of the Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant. Unfortunately, the reaffirmation service was postponed and should be rearranged for latter this year.

Lastly, members should by now be aware of the veteran's portal, which aims to signpost individuals to help and advice on all issues relating to the Armed Forces.

[www.veteransgateway.org.uk](http://www.veteransgateway.org.uk)

Update provided by: Cllr Andrew Huggins

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022