



## **COUNCIL – 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION – PRIDE IN VETERANS STANDARD**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report and make an appropriate recommendation. In accordance with Rule 11(3) of the Constitution.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor C. Andrews and Councillor T. Heron and is supported by Councillors S. Morgan, L. Whittle, E.M. Aldworth, N. George, A. Whitcombe, J. Pritchard, S. Cook, A. Hussey, J. Roberts, H. Pritchard, J. A. Pritchard, T. Parry, C. Thomas, A. McConnell, C. Wright, R. Champman, E. Forehead, S. Cook, E Stenner, C. Morgan, P. Leonard, K. Etheridge, A. Angel.
- 2.2 The Notice of Motion meets the criteria set out in the Council's Constitution and in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure is now referred to Council for consideration.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion as outlined in paragraph 5.1 and note the comments of the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee as detailed in Section 10 of the report.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution.

### **5. THE REPORT**

#### **5.1 Notice of Motion**

In their notice of motion Councillor C. Andrews and Councillor T. Heron request that Council adopt the Pride in Veterans Standard (PIVS) to visibly demonstrate its

commitment to providing inclusive and welcoming support to LGBT+ Veterans serving personnel and their families.

5.2 Councillor Andrews and Councillor Heron provides the following information in support of their notice of motion:-

The Pride in Veterans Standard is a programme run by Fighting With Pride which supports the health and well-being of LGBT+ Veterans, service personnel and their families, in particular, those most impacted by the ban on LGBT+ personnel serving in the Armed Forces to January 2000. They work with Veteran supporting organisations to build capacity for LGBT+ Veteran support, to recognise their service and help resolve the challenges they face in their lives beyond military service.

By adopting the PiVS, organisations need to be understanding of the experiences of LGBT+ Veterans, and how this may impact them accessing support. Organisations need to be ready and able to provide services in a supportive and empathic way that meets the specific needs of our LGBT+ community.

PiVS organisations will:

- Warmly welcome LGBT+ Veterans, serving personnel and their families.
- Ensure all staff volunteers and members have an awareness of the different challenges faced by LGBT+ people, in particular, those who were impacted by the Armed Forces' "gay ban".
- Have a clear understanding of the needs of LGBT+ Veterans, serving personnel and their families and tailoring support to meet their needs.
- Recognise, that for some LGBT+ Veterans, their experiences have impacted their mental health, and tailor support to meet their needs.
- Promote inclusion, dignity, and respect for LGBT+ people in everything that you do.
- Recognise the different groups within our community and understand their specific needs.

Caerphilly County Borough Council already demonstrates its support for the Armed Forces community and to the LGBT+ community, this is evidenced through signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant and our ongoing work with Proud Councils. More recently through hosting our very own Pride Caerffili, the first and only council-led Pride event in Wales, which was a massive success. By adopting the Standard further demonstrates the Council's commitment to supporting Veterans in the county borough regardless of their protected characteristics.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 As a notice of motion is a procedural matter and must be dealt with in accordance with Council's Constitution, no assumptions have been made.

## **7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 This report does not require an Integrated Impact Assessment as it relates to a procedural matter under the Councils Constitution.

- 7.2 The procedural rules regarding a Notice of Motion are contained within Council's Constitution as adopted in May 2002. The Council's Constitution sets out the framework for the decision-making roles and responsibilities.
- 7.3 However the outcome of the Notice of Motion and any subsequent reports arising from it may require an Integrated Impact Assessment.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 The notice of motion was considered by the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and was unanimously supported.
- 10.2 The Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee expressed their complete support for the Notice of Motion and for all the work that the Council is doing to support the LGBTQ+ Community.
- 10.3 Councillor Lindsay Whittle on behalf of the Plaid Cymru Group expressed his Group's support for the motion and welcomed the news that this year's Pride event would, going forward not only take place in Caerphilly Town but in other locations throughout the County Borough.
- 10.4 A Member queried the need for a separate Charter and Councillor Teresa Heron as Armed Forces Covenant Champion explained that there were many reasons for the standard but it was primarily about recognising the wrong doings of the past and correcting them and where loopholes or areas where there is not inclusiveness exist, ensure that we identify and tighten them, so that we make it clear for everyone to understand that these veterans, serving personnel and their families are 100% supported by the Local Authority and by us.
- 10.5 The Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee unanimously **RECOMMENDED** to Council that the Notice of Motion be supported.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2000

Author: Emma Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

Appendices: Appendix 1 Signed copy of Notice of Motion.