

Wiltshire Council

Council

16 October 2018

Notice of Motion No. 10 – Leisure Service discounts

From Councillors Brian Dalton and Ian Thorn

To consider the following motion submitted in accordance with the constitution:

The excellent work of our Armed Forces, in particular here on our door step in Wiltshire is recognised by this Council. Wiltshire Council, as a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant, supports continuing works with Army Basing, which will see approximately 4,000 military personnel moving to Wiltshire, mostly around the Tidworth area.

Council also notes the excellent work of our blue light services; police; fire; ambulance and NHS staff, which we in this room, rely on every day.

We would like to thank all those who were recently and some still, involved in the international incident in Salisbury. If people around the globe didn't know where we were, they certainly do now.

Many Military and Blue Light personnel subscribe to the two main discount providers which is available to them, which is the Defence Discount Card and the Blue Light Card. Many companies around the UK sign up to these, offering recipients discount off the services which they provide.

We request officers investigate the discount cards further and the Council signs up to these two discount cards, like many companies across the UK, thus offering the recipients and their family, a discount off leisure services across Wiltshire, such as swimming. We await the officers report, but would suggest a 20% discount. We would like to go one step further and include in this proposal, looked after children and their nominated carers across Wiltshire.

Signing up to this, you may ask, will cost the council some money. I suggest that it may encourage those people to use our leisure facilities who may not otherwise do so. It also brings health benefits to users, which none of us can argue about and could be an 80% gain to the council, not a 20% cost.

We ask the meeting to consider the following motion:

That Wiltshire Council thanks those officers in partner agencies who have supported the recovery from the international incident in Salisbury.

That Wiltshire Council recognises the excellent work of our Armed Forces, staff working in blue light services, carers of looked after children, and also the needs of looked after children. This Council supports offering these individuals, and their immediate family, discounts to leisure services across Wiltshire, and recommends officers investigate the options for this to facilitate implementation in financial year 2019-2020.

Response from Cllr John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communications, Communities, Leisure and Libraries

There is no doubt that the role of all those involved in keeping us safe and healthy; particularly this year following the incidents in Salisbury and Amesbury, should be recognised.

The suggestion to offer a discount to these personnel is well made, and I am delighted to update council members that we do already offer a discount and concession scheme across all Wiltshire Council leisure facilities, including those managed by Places for People.

- **Wiltshire Council leisure facilities offer a 20% discount**
- **Places for People facilities offer a 15% discount**

This discount is currently taken up by the following public sector organisations:

- Armed Forces personnel
- Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service
- NHS/CCG staff
- South West Ambulance Service
- Wiltshire Police

Spouses/partners living at the same address of any of the above personnel are also included in the Pairs Membership.

Please note: No discount is offered to Wiltshire Council staff.

In addition:

The following services have their own facilities for staff use:

- All serving military personnel based at Tidworth are entitled to free access to Tidworth Leisure Centre, Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm.
- Salisbury Hospital hosts facilities for staff use including a swimming pool, tennis/basketball court and a holiday club for 4 – 14 year olds
- Salisbury Fire Station has a gym
- Wiltshire Police have facilities including a gym at HQ in Devizes.

Also available:

- Active Health is available to adults 16+ who are referred to a leisure centre by their GP or other healthcare professional where they have one or more health conditions that would benefit from a programme of physical activity interventions. A 25% discount on standard memberships is applied, in addition to reduced casual pay and play rates.

This also applies to military personnel, blue light services staff and foster carers that meet the criteria.

Concessionary members are offered a 25% discount

- The Leisure Card option is free and provides a 50% reduction on payable casual or bookable activities and 25% off courses
- Carers, who are providing care at the time of the visit are allowed free entry to support their client.
- Children in foster care and the foster carers and immediate family living at the same address.
- This concession is available to military personnel and all emergency services staff where the eligibility criteria applies.

Free membership

We are also pleased to announce that to support our Looked After Children (LACs) and their carers/guardians we provide free memberships across our leisure facilities.

Other discounts available

Leisure Card

- Provides a £1.50 discount on all pay and play prices
- Available to any member of the public including military personnel, fire service, NHS,
- ambulance and police

Concessions

- The following groups are eligible for a concessionary Membership
- In receipt of Working Tax Credit (dependants under 16 years also eligible)
- In receipt of Income Support (dependants under 16 years also eligible)
- In receipt of Housing Benefit (dependants under 16 years also eligible)
- In receipt of Council Tax Benefit
- In receipt of Job Seekers Allowance
- In receipt of Personal Independence Payment/Attendance Allowance
- In receipt of Employment and Support Allowance
- In receipt of Carers Allowance
- In receipt of NHS HC2 Allowance
- In receipt of Guaranteed Pension Credit (this is not Savings Credit)
- Be a Wiltshire Passport Holder
- Have a Substantial and Permanent Disability
- Be a Foster Carer (including family living in the same residence)
- A Looked after Young Person (in the care of social services)
- Student (16+ in full time education)
- On a recognised full time apprenticeship scheme

- Be in work based learning for adults or young adults
- Universal Credit (UC)

Free Swimming for under 16s

- Free Swimming is available to all under 16s during the school holidays
- Includes children of military personnel, fire service, NHS, ambulance, police, looked after children