



# **Community Covenant**

**AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

BETWEEN

**TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

AND

**THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN TEST VALLEY**

**We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together to honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant.**

Brigadier David Greenwood  
Army Headquarters

**Signed on behalf of Army Headquarters**

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Kerr  
Commanding Officer 22 Engineer Regiment

**Signed on behalf of the Corps of Royal Engineers**

Brigadier Richard Dennis OBE ADC  
Colonel of The Regiment

**Signed on behalf of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment**

Colonel Murray Whiteside MBE  
Commandant Army Aviation Centre

**Signed on behalf of the Army Air Corps**

Councillor Ian Carr  
Leader of the Council

**Signed on behalf of Test Valley Borough Council**

*Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 2012*

## **SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS**

1.1 This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Test Valley

And

Test Valley Borough Council

## **SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

2.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Test Valley and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in Test Valley.

2.3 For Test Valley Borough Council, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work on other initiatives such as the Welfare Pathway.

2.4 For the Armed Forces community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces community to help their local community.

## **SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS**

### **Aims of the Community Covenant**

3.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant complements the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community

3.2 It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces community and make it easier for Service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the MOD, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.

3.3 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and the Armed Forces community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

#### **SECTION 4: Measures**

4.1 Test Valley Borough Council will undertake initiatives and activities with the aim of:

- Supporting the Freeman of the Borough and working with them and with the Army HQ, Marlborough Lines, Andover to facilitate their engagement with local communities
- Providing Mayoral and Civic support at ceremonial events
- Supporting the community work and events undertaken by the Armed Forces community
- Making Council facilities available for events on behalf of the Armed Forces community
- Providing support to Army families
- Assisting service and ex-service personnel in obtaining housing
- Providing support and grant funding for the rehabilitation of injured service personnel
- Providing support to ex service personnel in entering the job market
- Seeking to ensure that employers are aware of the merits of employing reservists and of the legislation to support employer and employee in that regard.

4.2 The initiatives and activities which are intended to achieve these aims are set out in more detail in the Annex to this Covenant and the parties to this agreement will from time to time review that Annex with a view to furthering the principles and intent of this Covenant.

#### **CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Contact Name:	John Shivas
Title:	DCDS (Pers) Sec Covenant 1
Telephone:	020 7218 9110
Address:	DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team Zone D, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor Ministry of Defence

Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

#### Test Valley Borough Council

Contact Name: James Moody  
Title: Policy Manager  
Telephone: 01264 368130  
Address: Test Valley Borough Council  
Beech Hurst  
Weyhill Road  
Andover  
SP10 3AJ

## **ANNEX**

The initiatives and activities of Test Valley Borough Council which are intended to achieve the aims set out in section 4.1 of this Covenant:

1. Supporting the following regiments as Freemen of the Borough:

The Corps of Royal Engineers

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment  
(Queen's and Royal Hampshire's)

The Army Air Corps, Middle Wallop  
(The Army Aviation Centre)

2. Working with staff from the Army HQ, Marlborough Lines, Andover through their membership of the Test Valley Partnership and the Community Safety Partnership to facilitate their engagement with local communities
3. Providing mayoral and civic support at a range of ceremonial events such as Remembrance Day
4. Undertaking community development work with Army families at Augusta Park through an on site member of staff
5. Supporting the Army's 'clean up' events in the community by the provision of advice and, where necessary, physical assistance

6. Working with the MOD Police on community development initiatives
7. Assisting service personnel with access to shared home ownership
8. Assisting the Armed Forces community in publicising and putting on their events
9. Making the Lights Theatre available for events on behalf of the Armed Forces community
10. Providing volunteering opportunities for returning service personnel (to enable them, for example, to learn new skills in carrying out site management plans at Nature Reserves and other sites).
11. Providing access to Business Incentive Grants for people coming out of the services who wish to start their own businesses
12. Organising in conjunction with the Enham Trust vocational visits for injured service personnel to support their reintegration into civilian life
13. Offering free access to Andover Leisure Centre for rehabilitation of injured service personnel under partnership arrangements with the Enham Trust
14. Funding disablement adaptations through Disabled Facilities Grants
15. Undertaking regular monitoring to ensure that adequate space is provide in Council car parks for those with mobility difficulties
16. Making free tickets available for certain events at the Lights Theatre and Odeon Cinema to disabled ex servicemen's and servicewomen's groups
17. Taking account of the support needs of ex military personnel particularly through supported accommodation for single homeless people, and taking their 'vulnerability' into account when making housing and homelessness assessments
18. Disregarding War Widows Pension and War Disablement Pension in assessing Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit claims

# THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom  
Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of  
the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.