



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

CHELTENHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL, COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL,
FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, GLOUCESTERSHIRE NHS,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY, STROUD DISTRICT
COUNCIL, TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS, THE CIVILIAN
COMMUNITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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

Signed:

Signed:

Name:

Name:

Position Held:

Position Held:

Signed on behalf of Army

**Signed on behalf of Cotswold
District Council**

Date:

Date:

Signed:

Signed:

Name:

Name:

Position Held:

Position Held:

Signed on behalf of Royal Air Force

**Signed on behalf of Gloucester
City Council**

Date:

Date:

Signed:

Signed:

Name:

Name:

Position Held:

Position Held:

Signed on behalf of Royal Navy

**Signed on behalf of Cheltenham
Borough Council**

Date:

Date:

Signed:

Signed:

Name:

Name:

Position Held:

Position Held:

**Signed on behalf of Forest of Dean
District Council**

**Signed on behalf of
Gloucestershire Police Authority**

Date:

Date:

Signed:

Signed:

Name:

Name:

Position Held:

Position Held:

**Signed on behalf of Gloucestershire
County Council**

**Signed on behalf of Stroud
District Council**

Date:

Date:

Signed:

Signed:

Name:

Name:

Position Held:

Position Held:

**Signed on behalf of
Gloucestershire NHS**

**Signed on behalf of the Voluntary
Sector**

Date:

Date:

Signed:

Name:

Position Held:

**Signed on behalf of the Business
And Commercial Sector**

Date:

Signed:

Name:

Position Held:

**Signed on behalf of Tewkesbury
Borough Council**

Date:

Signed:

Name:

Position Held:

**Signed on behalf of Veterans
Advisory & Pensions Committee**

Date:

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 Gloucestershire

And

Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest Of Dean District Council, Gloucester City Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucestershire NHS, Gloucestershire Police Authority, Stroud District Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council

And

The Charitable and Voluntary Sector

And

Other members of the civilian community

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 Gloucestershire 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 Gloucestershire.

2.3 For Gloucestershire County Council and partner organisations, 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 Cheltenham Borough Council Measures

4.2 Cotswold District Council Measures

4.3 Forest of Dean District Council Measures

4.4 Gloucester City Council Measures

4.5 Gloucestershire County Council Measures

Gloucestershire County Council has already undertaken a number of pieces of work in support of Gloucestershire's Armed Forces Community and will continue to do so in order to ensure the Covenant is a success. Examples include the following:

4.1.1 The County Council has recognized the important role and achievements of the Armed Forces Community by awarding the Freedom of Gloucestershire on three occasions:

- To 501 (County of Gloucester) Squadron in 2006
- To 1 Rifles in July 2009
- To the King's Royal Hussars in September 2010

4.1.2 Gloucestershire County Council will continue to recognise the role of reservists and cadet instructors amongst its employees. Following a motion at Full Council on 18 November 2009 the council endorsed the contribution that reservists make to our armed forces and to the council as an employer by extending the same special leave provisions that exist for cadet instructors to reservists, and has established a formal policy of nondiscrimination towards reservists in its employment.

4.1.3 The County Council appreciates the importance of improving communications and sharing of information with the Armed Forces Community and has arranged:

- Regular update meetings between a lead senior officer at the County Council and the Military Civilian Integration (MCI) lead for Gloucestershire (Bill Dowling, 43 Wessex Brigade) to discuss emerging issues including surplus sites and related land use planning matters, location of military personnel and school places.
- Four District Councils (Cheltenham, Gloucester, Tewkesbury and Cotswold) and the County Council have regular quarterly meetings with the Ministry of Defence to establish the latest information with regard to possible future plans for various MoD sites throughout the County. These are confidential meetings for the sole purpose of informing the District Councils' emerging Local Development Frameworks / Joint Core Strategy.

4.1.4 The County Council will continue to ensure school admissions and transfers are made as smoothly as possible for the Armed Forces Community. Recent examples of support include the following:

- Prior to the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), a British-led NATO unit, relocating from Germany to Imjin Barracks in 2010, Gloucestershire County Council had regular meetings with the ARRC to establish potential pupil numbers and location of housing for service personnel to ensure pupils could be accommodated in local schools. A dedicated webpage was also created with frequently asked questions and other information for ARRC families.
- In August 2011 the County Council supported 1 Rifles (Beachley Barracks) by making an exception to its school transport policy and providing additional resources for school transport for service children whilst the battalion is deployed to Afghanistan. The decision was made in recognition of the extraordinary circumstances and strain on service families, where a member of the family is on active deployment.

4.6 Gloucestershire NHS Measures

4.7 Gloucestershire Police Authority Measures

4.8 Stroud District Council Measures

4.9 Tewkesbury Borough Council Measures

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Army/ Royal Air Force/ Royal Navy representative(s)

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Forest of Dean District Council

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Gloucester City Council

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Stroud District Council

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Tewkesbury Borough Council

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Veterans Advisory & Pensions Committee

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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.