



ARMED FORCES  
**COVENANT**

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL AND PARTNERS FROM THE  
PUBLIC, BUSINESSES AND VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY  
SECTORS

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN THE BOROUGH OF  
HARTLEPOOL

(SERVING PERSONNEL, REGULARS, RESERVISTS,  
VETERANS, CADETS AND MILITARY FAMILIES)

17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019



## **SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS**

### **1.1 This local Armed Forces Covenant is made between:**

The current and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in the Borough of Hartlepool

and

Hartlepool Borough Council

and

Partners from Public, Business and Voluntary and Community

Sectors

and

the Civilian Community of the Borough.

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

**2.1** The Armed Forces Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between the population of the Borough of Hartlepool and the local Armed Forces Community. It complements the Armed Forces Covenant, encompassing the moral obligation between the nation, the Government and the Armed Forces at a local level.

**2.2** The Covenant is based on two key principles:

- i) The Armed Forces Community should not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services; and
- ii) Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most such as the injured, or the bereaved.

**2.3** The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in the Borough and to recognise, and remember, the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes serving personnel, veterans, reservists their families and widow(er)s in Hartlepool.

**2.4** For Hartlepool Borough Council, and its partner organisations, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help, advice and support to members of the Armed Forces Community.

**2.5** For the Armed Forces Community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service Personnel, Veterans and their families into civilian life and to engage with their local community.

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

- 3.1** The Armed Forces Covenant 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 our Borough to offer support to the local Armed Forces Community and make it easier for Serving personnel (Regular and Reservists), Veterans and their families to access the help and support available from the MoD, statutory providers, the local community and the Voluntary Sector.
- 3.3** The Covenant is intended to be a two-way arrangement and members of the Armed Forces Community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support their local community and promote activity which integrates Serving Personnel, Veterans and their families into communities.

## **SECTION 4: ACTIONS AND MEASURES**

**4.1** The signing of the original Armed Forces Community Covenant in 2012 demonstrated our commitment to supporting the Armed Forces community in Hartlepool. This new updated version of the Covenant recognises the need to continue, and effectively build upon, the work undertaken to meet the needs of the local Armed Forces Community. In order to achieve this, Hartlepool Borough Council and its Partners will:-

- i) Appointment of an Elected Member Armed Forces Champion to drive delivery of the objectives and intentions of the Community Covenant. The Elected Member Champion to be supported by a Council-appointed Veteran's Champion who is an ex service man/service woman;

Identify a senior officer to be the lead contact within the Authority for liaison with a senior officer from the Armed Forces (to be at least Lieutenant Colonel or equivalent) to:

- Facilitate the Council's active membership of the Tees Valley and North East Armed Forces Forums; and
  - Liaise with the Regional Commander in agreeing an annual support plan for Armed Forces community engagement;
- ii) Undertake an annual 'Stock Take' and develop a local 'Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan' based on the 'pillars' identified nationally (healthcare, education, housing, benefits and tax, family life, transition, participation as citizens, and recourse) against which success can be monitored and measured. This to be reviewed annually and reported to Full Council;
- iii) Work to address the health needs of ex-service personnel identified through the Borough's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment;
- iv) Ensure that Council Services are briefed and able to support both serving Armed Forces and ex-service personnel, and their families, with their enquiries;
- v) Encourage and support employees who volunteer for Reserve duties; and
- vi) Work in partnership with the armed forces community and organisations / charities, which support the aims of the Community Covenant.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### MOD DCDS (Pers & Trg) Covenant Team

**Title:** DCDS (Pers & Trg) Covenant Team  
**Telephone/email:** [covenant-mailbox@mod.uk](mailto:covenant-mailbox@mod.uk) 020 7218 9110  
**Address:** Zone A,  
6th Floor,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Main Building,  
Whitehall,  
London,  
SW1A 2HB.

### In-Service Representative

**Contact Name:** Lt. Col. Nathan Teale  
**Title:** Commanding Officer  
**Telephone/email:** [Nathan.Teale400@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Nathan.Teale400@mod.gov.uk) (01388) 660073  
**Address:** 8 Rifles, Battalion HQ,  
The Eden Armoury,  
St. Andrew's Road,  
Bishop Auckland,  
DL14 6RX.

### Hartlepool Borough Council

**Contact Name:** Councillor Allan Barclay  
**Title:** Mayor,  
**Telephone:** (01429) 523162  
**Address:** Civic Centre,  
Victoria Road,  
Hartlepool,  
TS24 8AY.

**Contact Name:** Gill Alexander  
**Title:** Chief Executive  
**Telephone:** (01429) 523001  
**Address:** Civic Centre,  
Victoria Road,  
Hartlepool,  
TS24 8AY.

**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 fulfill 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

