
Report To:	The Inverclyde Council	Date: 1 December 2011
Report By:	Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment	Report No: RMcG/LA/781/11
Contact Officer:	Rona McGhee	Contact No: 01475 712113
Subject:	Armed Forces Community Covenant Request by Councillor Dorrian	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Councillor Dorrian has requested that the Council consider signing an Armed Forces Community Covenant which aims to encourage 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, statutory providers and the charitable and voluntary sectors. A template agreement is attached. APPENDIX

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between the civilian community of Inverclyde and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement, at local level, the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces. The aim of the Community Covenant is to encourage local communities to support the Service community and promote understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community.
- 2.2 Many local people are already involved in supporting the Service community through Service charities, and have had a positive effect and boosted the morale of our Armed Forces community. The Community Covenant scheme aims to build on this local level of support.
- 2.3 The aims of the Armed Forces Community Covenant are to:
- encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces community in their areas
 - nurture public understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community
 - recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces Community
 - encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life
 - to encourage the Armed Forces Community to help and support the wider community, whether through participation in events and joint projects, or other forms of engagement
- 2.4 It is recognised that Community Covenants may look quite different from one location to another, and the practical implementation of the Covenant will be determined locally by both need and capacity. Other neighbouring local authority areas have already committed to establishing a Community Covenant (Glasgow City; West Dunbartonshire; Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire Councils), so there are potential opportunities to develop our Covenant Pledge in partnership with these areas.

3.0 COVENANT PLEDGE

- 3.1 The Pledge will set out what the Community Covenant seeks to achieve in Inverclyde, with potential support from the Community Covenant Grant Scheme which has been established to financially support projects which strengthen the ties or the mutual understanding between members of the Armed Forces Community and the wider community of Inverclyde.
- 3.2 In the first instance it is envisaged that the pledge would commit the Council to working with the Armed Forces to identify the profile of our local service personnel and veterans community, gaining an understanding of age; gender; current serving status; family and dependants; post or in-service health or social issues etcetera. We would underpin this development with a small number of clear measures that would help us to map our progress. Once we have a clearer picture of the local service and ex-service community the Covenant signatories would work together to develop ways in which to promote understanding and integration, again with a set of indicators to enable us to chart our progress.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that signatories to the Covenant if agreed by the Council would include; the Council; an Armed Forces Community representative; the Inverclyde CVS; representation from local RSLs and a representative from the Inverclyde Chamber of Commerce; and any other appropriate community group or agency.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Council is asked to consider the request from Councillor Dorrian to approve the development of a Community Covenant with the Armed Forces, in principle;

And to,

Remit to the Chief Executive responsibility for determining the range of partners and signatories for the Community Covenant, with agreed measures for evaluating progress.

Rona McGhee
Legal & Democratic Services



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

ABCD COUNTY COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHARITABLE
AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS,
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF *ABCD*

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN *ABCD* LOCATION

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

Signatories

(This page gives examples of the parties who may sign the Community Covenant. This is an example only and is not limited to the examples given)

Signed:

Name:

Position Held:

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces Community

Date:

Signed:

Name:

Position Held:

Signed on behalf of Armed Forces Charities

Date:

Signed:

Name:

Position Held: County Manager

Signed on behalf of the Business and Commercial Sector

Date:

Signed:

Name:

Position Held:

Signed on behalf of ABCD Council

Date:

Signed:

Name:

Position Held:

Signed on behalf of the Voluntary Sector

Date:

Signed:

Name:

Position Held: Branch Chairman

Signed on behalf of the Primary Care Trust/NHS Body

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 ABCD

And

ABCD County 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 xxxx 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 ABCD.

2.3 For ABCD 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 *Detail regarding specific measures to be put in place could be inserted here, e.g. Civil/Military Partnership Boards, Welfare Pathway, etc*

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

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In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name:
Title:
Telephone:
Address:

ABCD Council

Contact Name:
Title:
Telephone:
Fax:
Address:

Charities

Contact Name:

Title:
Telephone:
Address:

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.