



# **Community Covenant**

## **AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

BETWEEN

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS,  
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF LEICESTERSHIRE

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN LEICESTERSHIRE

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



## **Signatories**

Councillor Richard Blunt  
Leader  
North West Leicestershire District Council

Christine Fisher  
Chief Executive  
North West Leicestershire District Council

Andrew Bridgen  
Member of Parliament  
North West Leicestershire

Lt. Col. Richard Pope  
Ministry of Defence  
Armed Forces Community Engagement Officer - Leicestershire

David Atterbury  
County Chairman of Leicestershire & Rutland  
Royal British Legion

Date: 2014

## **PARTICIPANTS**

This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving, reservists and veterans of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in North West Leicestershire and North West Leicestershire District Council.

## **PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

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.

The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in North West Leicestershire 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, Reservists and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in North West Leicestershire.

For North West Leicestershire District 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 in District Council services such as Supporting our Families and our Community Focus work.

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.

This covenant builds on the strong connections already demonstrated between North West Leicestershire District Council and the Armed Forces community through ongoing initiatives such as the development of the Coalville Clock Tower War Memorial and Remembrance Day services. The North West Leicestershire Community Covenant will also seek to complement and support the Leicestershire County Council Community Covenant.

## **OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS**

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.

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 Ministry of Defence, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.

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.

## **THE COMMITMENT OF NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Armed Forces Champion**

The District Council will nominate an Armed Forces Champion, ensuring that military involvement is embedded at the highest levels within the Council. It is intended that this will be the relevant serving Portfolio Holder. The Armed Forces Champion or nominated representative will attend events in support of the local armed forces and the Royal British Legion, and will play an active role at receptions to mark special occasions.

### **Armed Forces Support Officer**

The District Council will nominate an Armed Forces Support Officer who will support the Armed Forces Champion and lead on Armed Forces Community Covenant related matters.

### **Website**

The Council will maintain an area on its website for the Armed Forces Community including the Community Covenant and a direct email link to the Armed Forces Champion.

### **Fly a Flag for Armed Forces Day**

The Council will support the national initiative to fly a flag for Armed Forces Day, with the Chairman hosting a short flag raising ceremony at the Council Offices in Coalville with other civic dignitaries and members of the Armed Forces and the Royal British Legion. The raising and flying of the Armed Forces Day flag provides a high profile opportunity to raise awareness of the role our Armed Forces and their families continue to play.

### **Remembrance Day**

The District Council will support arrangements for the marking of Remembrance Sunday in Coalville at Memorial Square which involves the Chairman alongside other civic dignitaries leading a public act of remembrance and hosting a parade through the Town. The Chairman may also attend other remembrance services around the District during the day.

### **Armistice Day**

The District Council recognises the importance of Armistice Day. A two minute silence is commemorated at the Council Offices. This event provides the opportunity for members of the public, Councillors and staff to observe the armistice in silence and reflect on previous wars and the sacrifices made by members of the armed forces.

### **Housing Support**

The Council has included special qualifying provisions in recognition of recent government guidance in its revised Housing Allocations Policy to ensure that members of the armed forces are not disadvantaged by the requirement to have a local connection to qualify for inclusion on our Housing Register and therefore access to social housing.

These provisions recognise the special position of members of the Armed Forces (and their families) whose employment requires them to be mobile and who are likely therefore to be particularly disadvantaged by local connection requirements; as well as those injured reservists who may need to move to another local authority district to access treatment, care or support.

### **Access to Council Leisure Services**

The Council will support service families and personnel to access and engage with North West Leicestershire's leisure services and facilities. Serving Armed Forces personnel and veterans are entitled to a 25% Membership discount in the Districts Leisure Centres.

### **Health Services Information and Support**

Upon notification of injured military personnel recovering/resettling in North West Leicestershire the District Council will ensure carers and individuals in need receive up-to-date information of services available. This will include provision of information which can assist those veterans suffering from mental ill-health issues.

### **War Memorials**

The Council will continue to recognise the importance and contribution of local war memorials through the Armed Forces Support Officer coordinating, promoting and responding to matters. This Officer will liaise with and be supported by the War Memorials Trust.

### **Armed Forces Community of NWL**

The Council will collate and maintain information to best understand the Armed Forces community in North West Leicestershire.

### **Community Covenant Grant Fund Support**

The Council through the Armed Forces Champion and Support Officer will promote, signpost to and support applications to the Community Covenant Grant Fund.

### **Signposting to relevant agencies**

The Council will liaise with and signpost to all relevant Armed Forces support agencies including the Royal British Legion and liaise with local representatives.

### **Review of the Community Covenant**

The Council will hold an annual meeting with the Armed Forces representatives to review the Community Covenant and progress on measures.

## **CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

### **MOD DCDS (Personnel & Training) Covenant Team**

Contact Name: Lisa Harper  
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

### **In-Service representative(s)**

Contact Name: Lieutenant Colonel Richard Pope  
Title: Armed Forces Community Engagement Officer - Leicestershire  
Telephone: 01664 418621  
Address: Animal Defence Centre, Melton Mowbray, LE13 0HX

### **North West Leicestershire District Council – Armed Forces Champion**

Contact Name: Cllr Alison Smith MBE  
Title: Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Services  
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### **North West Leicestershire District Council – Officer Contact**

Contact Name: John Richardson  
Title: Head of Community Services  
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### **The Royal British Legion, Leicestershire & Rutland**

Contact Name: David Atterbury  
Title: County Chairman  
Email: [david.atterbury@aol.com](mailto:david.atterbury@aol.com)

### **The Royal British Legion, North West Leicestershire**

Contact Name: Jim Rawlinson  
Title: North West Leicester Royal British Legion Group Chairman.  
and Vice President of Leicestershire & Rutland County Royal British  
Legion  
Email: [james.rowlinson@ntlworld.com](mailto:james.rowlinson@ntlworld.com)

## 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.