



**Community Covenant**

# **An Armed Forces Community Covenant**

**Between London Borough of Bexley And The Armed  
Forces Community Of Bexley**

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

## Signatories

Councillor Alan Downing, Mayor of the London Borough of Bexley

*Signed*

Councillor Teresa O'Neill, Leader of the Council, London Borough of Bexley

*Signed*

Councillor Chris Ball, Leader of the Labour Group, London Borough of Bexley

*Signed*

Will Tuckley, Chief Executive, London Borough of Bexley

*Signed*

Major David Hower OBE TD DL, Deputy Lieutenant, London Borough of Bexley

*Signed*

Colonel Michael Kelly, Deputy Chief of Staff, HQ London District, The Army Community in London

*Signed*

Commander Peter Gracey RN, Fleet CMR Staff Officer, The Royal Navy Community in London

*Signed*

Wing Commander Chris Owen, Air Command Liaison Officer to RFCA GL and Vice Chair (Air) RFCA GL, The Royal Air Force Community in London

*Signed*

Colonel Hugh Purcell OBE DL, Chief Executive, Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Greater London The Reserve Forces and Cadets Association Community in London

*Signed*

Brian Hargrave, Greater London District Chairman, Royal British Legion, The Royal British Legion Community in London

*Signed*

**Date: Friday 10 May 2013**

## **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 Bexley And London Borough of Bexley.

## **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 Bexley 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 Bexley.

2.3 For the London Borough of Bexley 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 The London Borough of Bexley Armed Forces Community Covenant seeks civic support in the following broad areas – adult support to cadet forces; enabling recruitment; allowing work and

training; housing; school transition for service children; medical and welfare pathways; veterans; local security; post operational home-coming parades and support to reservists.

4.2 The London Borough of Bexley Armed Forces Community Covenant suggests military support in the following areas – aid in civil emergencies as permitted by legislation; periodic access to our estate and its facilities; representation at celebrations, commemorations and parades; single Service Presentation teams; and sharing with partner organisations such as uniformed youth, veterans and the third sector.

4.3 It is acknowledged that support in all directions will have periodic resource constraints.

## **Contact personnel and telephone numbers**

### **MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg)**

Covenant Team DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team

Zone D, 6th Floor Ministry of Defence Main Building Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB, email: [covenant-mailbox@mod.uk](mailto:covenant-mailbox@mod.uk)

Martin French , Civil Engagement Manager, HQ London District, Horse Guards, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2AX, Telephone no: 0207 414 2024

### **London Borough of Bexley**

David Easton, Head of Electoral and Members' Services, Civic Offices, Broadway, Bexleyheath, DA6 7LB , Telephone no: 020 3045 3675, email: [dave.easton@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:dave.easton@bexley.gov.uk)

Kevin Fox, Head of Committee Services and Scrutiny, Civic Offices, Broadway, Bexleyheath, DA6 7LB, Telephone no: 020 3045 3588, email: [kevin.fox@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.fox@bexley.gov.uk)

## **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.