



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH 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 David Cope
Executive member for Leisure & Culture
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Steve Atkinson
Chief Executive
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

David Atterbury
County Chairman of Leicestershire & Rutland
Royal British Legion

Linda Flecknell
Area Manager for the East Midlands
Royal British Legion

PARTICIPANTS

This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Leicestershire

and

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough 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 Hinckley & Bosworth 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 Hinckley & Bosworth.

For Hinckley & Bosworth Borough 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 services such as Customer Service Excellence, our Equality Strategy and our Customer Service Strategy.

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 Hinckley & Bosworth and the Armed Forces community through ongoing initiatives such as: the partnership at the Argents Mead Memorial and the continuing work with the veteran community.

OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

Aims of the Community Covenant

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 MOD, 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.

Measures

The Council has granted freedom of entry to the Borough of Hinckley & Bosworth to the 2nd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment.

The Mayor attends many armed forces events during the course of the civic year in support of the local armed forces and the Royal British Legion, and is pleased to play an active role at receptions to mark special occasions.

The Council supports the national initiative to fly a flag for Armed Forces Day, with the Mayor hosting a short flag raising ceremony on Argents Mead alongside the Deputy Lord-Lieutenant and other civic dignitaries and members of the armed forces and the Royal British Legion. The raising and flying of the Armed Forces Day flag in Hinckley Town Centre provides a high profile opportunity to raise awareness of the role our armed forces and their families continue to play.

The Council coordinates arrangements for marking Remembrance Sunday in Hinckley, which involves the Mayor alongside other civic dignitaries leading a public act of remembrance in Argents Mead and hosting a parade of local regiments and the Territorial Army through the Town, which on occasions includes presenting medals to members of the armed forces. The Mayor will also attend other remembrance services around the Borough during the day.

The Borough Council recognises the importance of Armistice Day. Two minute silence is commemorated at the Council Offices. Both events provide 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.

Hinckley & Bosworth has nominated a Borough Councillor as the Council's Lead Member for the Armed Forces, ensuring that military involvement is embedded at the highest levels within the Council. This will be Councillor David Cope, Executive member for Leisure & Culture

Hinckley & Bosworth will continue to demonstrate its support to the Armed Forces Community. This support includes (and is not an exhaustive list):

Upon notification of injured military personnel recovering/resettling in Hinckley & Bosworth the Borough Council will ensure carers and individuals in need receive up-to-date information of services available. This will also include support for veterans living with PTSD and other mental health problems.

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.

The Council will support service families and personnel to access and engage with Hinckley & Bosworth's community, heritage, and leisure services and facilities.

The Mayor of Hinckley & Bosworth takes an active role in presenting former members of the armed forces who live in Hinckley & Bosworth with their Veterans Badge. Retiring members of the armed forces can request that the Mayor presents to them their Veterans Badge and arrangements will be made to do this either at an existing event, the veteran's home or at the Mayor's Parlour.

To coincide with Remembrance Day the Mayor will support the 'Lest We Forget' switch on event

Continue to recognise the importance and contribution of local war memorials by having a dedicated named Officer to coordinate, promote and respond to matters. This Officer will be supported by War Memorials Trust.

An annual meeting between Armed Forces representatives and Hinckley & Bosworth will be held to review progress on all these measures

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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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.