



# **Community Covenant**

## **AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

BETWEEN

*OADBY & WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL*, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS,

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN *OADBY & WIGSTON*

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

## Signatories

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Pope  
Commanding Officer  
Defence Animal Centre

Councillor Frank Broadley  
The Mayor of Oadby & Wigston BC  
Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

**Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces  
Community**

**Signed on behalf of Oadby & Wigston  
Borough Council**

Date:

Date:

Mr David Atterbury  
Chairman  
Leicestershire & Rutland Royal British Legion

Councillor Lynda Eaton  
Armed Forces Champion  
Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

**Signed on behalf of Armed Forces  
Charities**

**Signed on behalf of the Voluntary  
Sector**

Date:

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 Oadby & Wigston

And

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

And

The Charitable and Voluntary Sector

## **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 Oadby & Wigston 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 Oadby & Wigston.

2.3 For Oadby & Wigston 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 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 To appoint a Councillor as the Council's Lead Member and Champion for the Armed Forces. This will ensure that recognition of the armed forces will be embedded within and promoted by the Council. The first incumbent of this position will be Councillor Lynda Eaton.
- 4.2 To research and build an understanding as to how many current and ex service men and women and their families reside within the borough together with any other information that will assist the Council better understand their issues and needs.
- 4.3 To communicate a clear and positive message to current and ex service men and women and their families that reside in the borough that the Council wants to listen and learn about what it can usefully and practically do to assist them.
- 4.4 To communicate clear and positive messages to other organisations and residents which demonstrate that the Council takes its relationship with armed services and personnel seriously.
- 4.5 The Armed forces Champion will present an annual report to the full Council that will set out any activities relating to the Covenant and the Council's interactions with the armed forces during that year and how the Covenant could evolve for the following year.
- 4.6 The creation an easy to find and navigate dedicated page on the Council's website that sets out the measures that the council is taking together with a copy of the Covenant and signposts and links to other relevant organisations and agencies.
- 4.7 To work with the Leicestershire Branch of the Royal British Legion and the In-Service Representative to develop and progress the aims of the Covenant.

#### **DETAILS OF CONTACT PERSONNEL**

##### **Oadby & Wigston B C – Armed Forces Community Covenant Champion**

Councillor Lynda Eaton  
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##### **In-Service Representative**

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Pope  
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**The Royal British Legion, Leicestershire**

Mr David Atterbury  
Chairman, Leicestershire & Rutland Royal British Legion,

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

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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.