



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

BASILDON RENAISSANCE PARTNERSHIP

THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF BASILDON

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN THE BASILDON BOROUGH

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

Signatories

Signed:

Name:

Position Held:

Date: 8 November 2012

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces Community in the Basildon Borough

Signed:

Name: Councillor Mo Larkin

Position Held: Mayor of Basildon Borough Council

Date: 8 November 2012

Signed on behalf of the Civilian Community

Signed:

Name: Councillor Tony Ball

Position Held: Chairman of the Basildon Renaissance Partnership

Date: 8 November 2012

Signed on behalf of the Basildon Renaissance Partnership

The signing of this Community Covenant was witnessed by -

**The Right Honourable Mark Francois MP
Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans**

Signed:

Date: 8 November 2012

SECTION 1: WHAT IS AN 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.

The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Basildon and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in Basildon Borough.

For the partner organisations that make up the Basildon Renaissance Partnership, 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.

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 2: 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 the Basildon Borough

And

The Basildon Renaissance Partnership

And

Other members of the Civilian community

(The Basildon Renaissance Partnership comprises Basildon Borough Council, various public sector organisations, representatives of the voluntary and community sector and the private business sector)

SECTION 3: 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 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 overarching aims of the Covenant are as follows –

1. Encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces communities in their areas
2. Nurture public understanding and awareness amongst the public of the issues affecting the Armed Forces Community
3. Recognise and honour the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces Community
4. Encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life
5. Encourage the Armed Forces Community to help and support the wider community

SECTION 4: MEASURES

Establishment of a local ‘Civil/Military Community Partnership Board’

The signing of this Covenant initiates the establishment of a Partnership Board whose primary aim shall be to work towards the aims and objectives of this Covenant.

The Board will consist of representatives of the Basildon Renaissance Partnership, representatives of the Armed Forces Community in the Basildon Borough and other representatives as the Board feels is appropriate.

The role of the Board will include: -

- Identifying and developing the specific measures, actions, projects to be undertaken which strengthens the tier of understanding between members of the Armed Forces Community and the wider Basildon community
- Overseeing and co-ordinating delivery of actions to ensure they are having the desired impact and outcomes
- Sharing information and working in partnership in areas of mutual benefit
- Submitting bids for funding from the Government’s ‘Community Covenant Grant Scheme’ to support projects, at the local level,

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 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