



Community Covenant

between

SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

and

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN SWALE

dated 04 March 2014



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT FOR SWALE

SECTION 1 – PARTICIPANTS

1. This Swale Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:
 - a. serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Swale, and
 - b. Swale Borough Council.

SECTION 2 – PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

2. This Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between the Swale civilian community and the Armed Forces Community in Swale. 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 core principle of the Armed Forces Covenant is that members of the Armed Forces Community should:
 - a. not suffer disadvantage compared to other citizens as a result of their service;
 - b. receive equality of outcomes; and
 - c. receive special treatment where appropriate.
3. The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Swale and to recognise and to remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes Service personnel and Service veterans, their families and their widow(er)s.
4. For Swale Borough Council, this Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring its knowledge, experience and expertise to bear in the provision of support, help and advice to members of the Swale Armed Forces Community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work on other initiatives such as the Welfare Pathway¹.

¹ The Welfare Pathway brings together services to support veterans and uses existing Gateways as the access point.

5. For the Swale Armed Forces Community, this Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life with civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces Community to help their local community.

SECTION 3 – AIMS AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

6. This Community Covenant complements 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.
7. It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces Community and to 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 and at local level.
8. The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and members of the Swale Armed Forces Community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support the Swale civilian community and to promote activity that integrates the Service community into civilian life.

SECTION 4 - MEASURES

9. Swale Borough Council will explore the potential for closer working with other public, voluntary, community and private sector partners to facilitate the provision of support to the Swale Armed Forces Community.
10. It is intended that this support will lead to enhanced policy decisions and better service and community planning. Where appropriate Swale Borough Council will co-ordinate the delivery of joint Civilian/Military Community projects.
11. Signatories to this Swale Community Covenant will work together with the Armed Forces Community in Swale and with other individuals and organisations in Swale to further the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant.

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

Signatories

Signed:

Name: Lieutenant Colonel C. Warhurst

Position Held: Commanding Officer 1 RSME Regiment & Commander Chatham Station

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces Community

Signed:

Name: Councillor S. Gent

Position Held: Mayor of Swale

Signed on behalf of Swale Borough Council

Signed:

Name: Councillor A. Bowles

Position Held: Leader of the Council

Signed on behalf of Swale Borough Council

Signed:

Name: Councillor L Ridings

Position Held: Chairman

Signed on behalf of the Kent Civilian/Military Partnership Board

Signed:

Name: Mr M. Tullberg

Position Held: Faversham and Sheppey Division, Soldiers, Sailors, and Air Force Association

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces Charities

Signed:

Name: Mr A. Walker

Position Held: Chairman Kent County Royal British Legion

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces Charities

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.