

## PERTH &amp; KINROSS COUNCIL

Council Meeting – 3 October 2012

**ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT****Report by Head of Democratic Services****ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of a proposed Community Covenant with the Armed Forces.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

## 1.1 It is recommended that -

- (a) Perth and Kinross Council adopt the Armed Forces Community Covenant as set out in **Appendix 1** to this report; and
- (b) authorise the Chief Executive to conclude the Covenant on behalf of the Council.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civil 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 local level. The aim of the Community Covenant is to encourage local communities to support the service community in their area and nurture understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community.

**3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 Over 80 Community Covenants have been signed, including 18 in Scotland. The local authorities in these areas have established, or are establishing, effective relationships with the military community in their area. Almost every community has members of the Armed Forces Community living within it, be it Serving members, family members or veterans. The Community Covenant encourages local communities to develop a relationship with the service community in their area, this enables support to be tailored according to need. In return there is much the Armed Forces community can do to support the local communities in this area. The Covenant Scheme encourages the Armed Forces community to do their bit to nurture this two way relationship.
- 3.2 Many people have become involved in supporting the Service community, through Service charities or more recently in participating in Armed Forces Day. As members will be aware a main feature of the Council's Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on 2 June 2012 was the Kilt Run, where the nominated charities were ABF The Soldiers' Charity and PKAVS. The Council has actively supported the annual Armed Forces Day for a number of years.

## **4. PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 Public service providers, businesses and communities can offer support in a number of ways to the Armed Forces and by entering into a partnership this will further enhance that Perth and Kinross is a place where a first class quality of life can be enjoyed by all. It is therefore recommended that the Council enter into discussions aimed at preparing a Covenant fit for Perth and Kinross. The scheme is aimed 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 (MOD), from statutory providers and from the charitable and voluntary sectors. A draft Community Covenant document is attached at **Appendix 1** to this report.
- 4.2 The Covenant is based on the five themes set out in the Government's Covenant guidelines:-
- Encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces communities in their area and vice versa;
  - Nurture public understanding and public awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community;
  - Recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces community;
  - Encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces community into local life; and
  - Encourage the Armed Forces community to help and support the wider community.

## **5. COMMUNITY COVENANT GRANT SCHEME**

- 5.1 The MOD has also launched the Community Covenant Grant Scheme where £30 million is to be made available over the next four years to fund relevant community based schemes. Bids may only be submitted from areas which have established a Community Covenant in their area and applications are invited for sums from £100 to £250,000.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 There has been no consultation in the preparation of this report.

## **7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no resource implications arising directly from the proposals contained in this report.

## **8. COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN OBJECTIVES 2009-2012**

7.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2009-2012 sets out five Objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. They are as follows:

- (i) A Safe, Secure and Welcoming Environment
- (ii) Healthy, Caring Communities
- (iii) A Prosperous, Sustainable and Inclusive Economy
- (iv) Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens
- (v) Confident, Active and Inclusive Communities

This report relates to all of these objectives.

## **8. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EqIA)**

8.1 An equality impact assessment needs to be carried out for functions, policies, procedures or strategies in relation to race, gender and disability and other relevant protected characteristics. This supports the Council's legal requirement to comply with the duty to assess and consult on relevant new and existing policies.

8.2 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) and has been assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

## **9. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

9.1 The plan, programme and strategy presented in this report was considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the determination was made that the items summarised in this report do not require further action as they do not qualify as a plan, programme or strategy as defined by the Act.

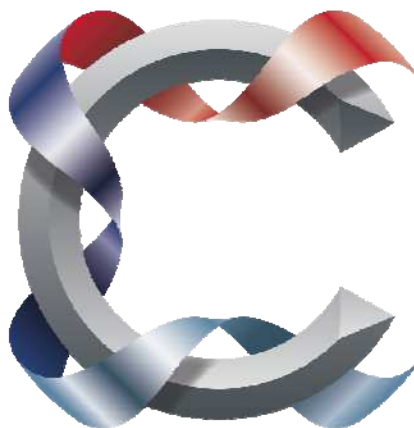
## **10. CONCLUSION**

10.1 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. It is therefore suggested that members authorise officers to enter into discussion aimed at preparing a Covenant for Perth and Kinross recognising those who have performed military duties over many years.

**GILLIAN A TAYLOR**  
**Head of Democratic Services**

**Note:** No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

**Contact Officer:** Gillian Taylor, 01738 475135, [gataylor@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:gataylor@pkc.gov.uk)  
**Address of Service:** Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth, PH1 5PH  
**Date of Report:** 21 September 2012



# **Community Covenant**

## **AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

BETWEEN

*ABCD* COUNTY COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHARITABLE  
AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS,  
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF *ABCD*

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN *ABCD* LOCATION

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

## Signatories

*(This page gives examples of the parties who may sign the Community Covenant. This is an example only and is not limited to the examples given)*

Signed:

Name:

Position Held:

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

Date:

Signed:

Name:

Position Held:

**Signed on behalf of Armed Forces Charities**

Date:

Signed:

Name:

Position Held: County Manager

**Signed on behalf of the Business and Commercial Sector**

Date:

Signed:

Name:

Position Held:

**Signed on behalf of ABCD Council**

Date:

Signed:

Name:

Position Held:

**Signed on behalf of the Voluntary Sector**

Date:

Signed:

Name:

Position Held: Branch Chairman

**Signed on behalf of the Primary Care Trust/NHS Body**

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 ABCD

And

ABCD County Council

And

The Charitable and Voluntary Sector

And

Other members of the civilian community

## 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 xxxx 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 ABCD.

2.3 For ABCD County 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 *Detail regarding specific measures to be put in place could be inserted here, e.g. Civil/Military Partnership Boards, Welfare Pathway, etc*

#### **CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Email address: [covenant-mailbox@mod.uk](mailto:covenant-mailbox@mod.uk)  
Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team  
Zone D, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name:  
Title:  
Telephone:  
Address:

**ABCD** Council

Contact Name:  
Title:  
Telephone:  
Fax:  
Address:

Charities

Contact Name:  
Title:  
Telephone:  
Address:



## **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.

