



AN ARMED FORCES COVENANT

BETWEEN

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS,
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF *Barking and Dagenham*

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN *Barking and Dagenham*


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

Signatories


Signed: 
Name: Wing Commander
Judith Hird
Position Held:

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

Date:

Signed: 
Name: Paul Doherty
Position Held: ~~Chairman~~ ^{Chairman} ~~ALBI~~ ^{ALBI}
~~Secretary~~

**Signed on behalf of Armed Forces
Charities**

Signed: 
Name: Hassan Romel

Position Held: Contract Manager

Signed on behalf of Everyone Active

Signed: 
Name: Darren Rodwell
Position Held: Leader of the Council

**Signed on behalf of the London
Borough of Barking and Dagenham**

Date:

Signed: 
Name: Lorraine Goldberg

Position Held:

**Signed on behalf of the Voluntary
Sector**

SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This Armed Forces Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

And

The Charitable and Voluntary Sector

And

Other members of the civilian community

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

2.1 The Armed Forces Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. This Covenant encompasses the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

2.1 The Armed Forces Covenant is based upon two key principles:

- The Armed Forces community should not face 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.

2.3 The purpose of this Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham 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 The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

2.4 For The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham 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.

2.5 For the Armed Forces community, the 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 Covenant

- 3.1 The Armed Forces Covenant 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

We will actively promote that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation by:

- Publicising our Armed Forces Covenant and displaying the Armed Forces Covenant on our website
- Assuming a positive leadership role in promoting Barking and Dagenham as an Armed forces Borough
- Ensuring our frontline staff have up to date training on any new or updated policies and information on other organisations that will help the Armed Forces community
- Promoting a greater understanding and awareness of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community within the borough
- Encouraging other companies and organisations to sign the covenant
- Engaging with partners in the private, public and voluntary sectors to identify opportunities to fulfil the objectives of the covenant
- Appointing a Councillor and a Senior Officer as point of contact within the Council to ensure that commitments are implemented and maintained
- Ensuring elected members and frontline staff are made aware of the covenant as part of their induction

Supporting the employment of veterans and service leavers by:

- Publicising our Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Bronze Award
- Recognising that the Armed Forces Community bring a variety of transferable skills and qualities developed throughout their military careers
- Ensuring our application process is inclusive and accessible
- Guaranteeing an interview if Veterans and Service leavers meet the minimum criteria
- Ensuring there are paid and unpaid leave arrangements for reservists when attending annual camps/training and when on active duty
- Offering a range of occupational health and wellbeing services for veteran employees and reservists including access to our Employee Assistance Programme

and if required face to face counselling and physiotherapy, and signposting to Access to Work services including their Mental Health Support Service both for specialist equipment mental health and wellbeing support, children's services, Drug and Alcohol services, and the variety of adult services we have in the borough

Housing and Council Tax Support

- We will not require the applicants who are leaving the Armed Forces accommodation to fulfil the residence requirement on the Councils housing register; this includes members of the armed forces, their spouses or their civil partners
- We will award a reasonable preference for housing to those applicants, to assist them in their search for alternative housing.
- A property which is occupied by armed forces personnel may be exempt from Council Tax (this is dependent on certain criteria rules listed on our website)

Free Leisure offer

- Barking and Dagenham Council in partnership with Everyone Active offers free leisure passes to all regular and reservist armed forces personnel and their immediate families. (for information on eligibility please refer to the LBBB website)
- The leisure pass provides free access to Becontree Heath Leisure Centre and Abbey Leisure Centre and includes access to, the gym, fitness & exercise classes and the swimming pool
- Veterans can use leisure services at discounted prices

Recognising and remembering the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces Community by

- Recognising and mindfully remembering the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces Community and all those that have lost their lives during both times of conflict and peace by posting messages of support on social media sites and linking relevant to relevant websites
- Recognising and remembering the contribution of British and the Commonwealth military and civilian service men and women who have been affected by armed conflict by supporting Remembrance and Armistice day.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD Armed Forces Covenant Team

Email address: covenant-mailbox@mod.gov.uk
Address: Armed Forces Covenant Team
Zone A, 6th Floor
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name:

Title:

Telephone:

Address:

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Council

Contact Name:

Mark Tyson

Title:

Director of Policy and Participation

Telephone:

020 8227 2875

Address:

Barking Town Hall

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.