AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, STOCKTON RENAISSANCE

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON-ON-TEES

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

Date: 7th March 2012
Signed:
Name: Lt-Col I C Adkins REME
Position Held: CO 102 Bn REME
Signed on behalf of the Army Community

Date: 7th March 2012
Signed:
Name: Councillor Paul Baker
Position Held: The Worshipful the Mayor
Signed on behalf of Stockton Council

Date: 7th March 2012
Signed:
Name: Cdr D N Pickthall CEng RN
Position Held: COS NRCNE
Signed on behalf of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Merchant Navy Communities

Date: 7th March 2012
Signed:
Name: Councillor Robert Cook
Position Held: Chair of the LSP
Signed on behalf Stockton Renaissance

Date: 7th March 2012
Signed:
Name: Wg Cdr J Pruden MBA MSc BA(Hons) FInstLM RAF
Position Held: OC BSW, RAF LEEMING
Signed on behalf of the Royal Air Force Community
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 the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees

And

Stockton Borough Council

And

Stockton Renaissance, the local strategic partnership

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 the Borough of Stockton on Tees 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 Stockton on Tees.

2.3 For Stockton on Tees 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, advice and support to members of the Armed Forces
Community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work such as the

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 Stockton on Tees Borough Council and Renaissance (LSP) will:

- Introduce Member Champions for the Armed Forces. Member Champions are based on relevant Cabinet Member portfolios and therefore the following Cabinet Members will be champions for the Armed Forces as part of their role: Members for Access and Communities, Adult Services and Health, Regeneration and Transport, and Housing and Community Safety.

- Have an identified nominated senior officer to participate in local/ regional Armed Forces support networks and be the lead contact within the Authority for liaison with the Armed Forces

- Take part in wider regional initiatives designed to improve the support provided to residents who have served in the armed forces. This will include signing up to the Regional Charter that will demonstrate North East Local Authorities' support for the ex-service community.

- Ensure that key Council services are briefed and able to support both serving Armed Forces and ex-service personnel with their enquiries. In order to support this, work will be undertaken in order to better identify customers who are ex-service.

- Ensure that we continue to support employees who volunteer for Reserve duties.

- Publicise and promote our Armed Forces central point of contact telephone number

- Work to identify Armed Forces personnel / Veterans within the Borough and ensure that their “Voice” is heard in the engagement system.

- Work to address health needs of Ex-Service personnel identified through the Borough’s Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Scrutiny Review are delivered by the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Clinical Commissioning Groups Clear and Credible Plan

- Develop a dedicated section of the Council’s website, and ensure that appropriate links are made with other web-based support, and networks. Promote our dedicated web presence widely, with assistance and advice from Service and ex-Service Communities and their representatives.

- Review quarterly the Health Needs of Ex-Service Personnel Local Action Plan through the Council’s Policy Officers Group

- Report Annually to Full Council and the LSP the implementation / Impact of the Community Covenant
• Support and respond to the North East Regional Health Scrutiny Committee and the Association of North East Councils as it monitors the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the Health Needs of Ex-Service Personnel recommendations.

The Armed Forces will:

• Deliver an annual seminar to Members to present their operational experiences and what any planned changes as a result of defence policy might mean at a local level. This may include enabling a visit from a national or regional resource, such as the 15 (North East) Brigade Military Civil Integration Team or the Army Presentation Team subject to the timetable of the latter. In addition, Service Personnel returning from operations could be encouraged to provide briefs on their experiences to Council Members and Officers, as well as other civil agencies.

• Deliver an annual update to Renaissance, the Local Strategic Partnership, presenting their operational experiences and what any planned changes as a result of defence policy might mean at a local level.

• Encourage Service and ex-Service Personnel to be active members of their local communities.

• Undertake involvement in community activities, potentially and subject to operational requirements including the following:
  • Supporting Council events in and around the Borough of Stockton-upon-Tees, such as Remembrance Sunday and Armed Forces Day, with a military presence that is mutually agreed.
  • Support to Council events with a military band, including the 102Bn REME Pipe Band, subject to mutual agreement.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Title: DCDS (Pers) Sec Covenant
Telephone: 020 7218 9110
Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team
Zone D, 6th Floor
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name:
Stockton on Tees Borough Council

Contact Name: Mrs Lesley King  
Title: Head of Policy, Improvement and Engagement 
Telephone: 01642 527004  
Address: Municipal Buildings  
Church Road  
Stockton on Tees  
TS18 1LD  
Email: lesley.king@stockton.gov.uk

Stockton on Tees Renaissance (LSP)

Contact Name: Councillor Robert Cook  
Title: Chair of the LSP  
Telephone: 01642 527032  
Address: Municipal Buildings  
Church Road  
Stockton on Tees  
TS18 1LD  
Email: robert.cook@stockton.gov.uk

Charities

Contact Name: Ms Allison Agius  
Title: Executive Director, Catalyst  
Telephone: 01642 733908  
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27 Yarm Road  
Stockton on Tees  
TS18 3NJ  
Email: Allison@catalyststockton.org
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.