

Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

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

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN SOMERSET

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


Signatories

Date: Monday, 20th February 2012

Signed on behalf of Somerset County Council:

Name: Mr Ken Maddock

Position Held: Council Leader

Signed: 

Name: Mr John Edney

Position Held: Chairman

Signed: 

Name: Mr Sam Crabb

Position Held: Opposition Group Leader

Signed: 

Name: Ms Sheila Wheeler

Position Held: Chief Executive

Signed: 

Signed on behalf of the Bishop of Bath & Wells:

Name: The Venerable John Reed

Position: Archdeacon of Taunton

Signed: 

Signed on behalf of Mendip District Council:

Name: Mr Stuart Brown

Position Held: Chief Executive

Signed: 

Signed on behalf of Sedgemoor District Council:

Name: Councillor Peter Downing

Position Held: Deputy Chairman

Signed: 

Name: Mr Kerry Rickards


Position Held: Chief Executive Officer

Signed: 

Signed on behalf of South Somerset District Council:

Name: Councillor Ric Pallister


Position Held: Council Leader

Signed: 

Signed on behalf of Taunton Deane Borough Council:

Name: Councillor John Williams


Position Held: Council Leader

Signed: 

Signed on behalf of West Somerset Council

Name: Councillor Anthony Knight

Position Held: Chairman

Signed: 

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces Community


Name: Commodore AJG Miller

Position Held: Naval Regional Commander

Signed: 

Name: Brigadier Piers Hankinson

Position Held:
Commander, 43 (Wessex) Brigade

Signed: 

Name: Major Aldeiy Alderson

Position Held: Second in Command,
40 Commando Royal Marines

Signed: 

Name: Lt Col NR Holmes MBE RIFLES

Position Held: Commanding Officer,
6 RIFLES

Signed: 

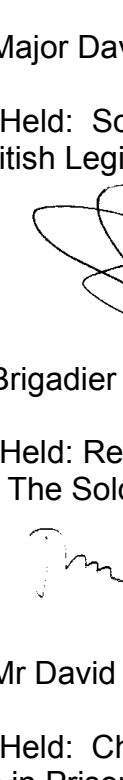
Name: Colonel P M Richardson

Position Held: Commandant,
Somerset Army Cadet Force

Signed: 

Name: Brigadier Tony Dalby-Welsh

Position: Chief Executive, Wessex
Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association

Signed: 

Signed on behalf of Armed Forces Charities

Name: Admiral of the Fleet Sir Benjamin Bathurst GCB DL

Position Held: Somerset President of the Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen and
Families' Association

Signed: 

Name: Wing Commander Martin Henshaw RAF (Retd)

Position Held: Regional Director, Wales and West of England Royal Air Force
Benevolent Fund

Signed: 

Name: Major David Lowe

Position Held: Somerset County Manager,
Royal British Legion

Signed: 

Name: Mr Sean O'Brien

Position Held: Chairman, Go Commando

Signed: 

Name: Brigadier Christopher Wolverson OBE DL

Position Held: Representing The South West Veterans Advisory & Pensions Committee
and ABF The Soldiers' Charity

Signed: 


Name: Mr David Wilson

Position Held: Chief Executive,
Veterans in Prison Association

Signed:

Name: Lt Cdr Diana Wyatt

Position Held: Secretary of the Bristol
Committee, Seafarers UK

Signed: 

Signed on behalf of the Primary Care Trust/NHS Body

Name: Mrs Jane Barrie OBE DL

Position Held: Chair, NHS Somerset

Signed:



Signed on behalf of the Education Sector

Name: Mrs Rachel Davies

Position Held: Principal, Somerset College

Signed:



Name: Mrs Jayne Lewis

Position Held: Vice Principal, Participation Development & UCY, Yeovil College

Signed:



Signed on behalf of the Business and Commercial Sector

Name: Mr John Allen

Position Held: Manager, Services to the Economy Connect South West Limited

Signed:



Name: Mr Chris Mitchell

Position Held: President, Taunton Chamber of Commerce

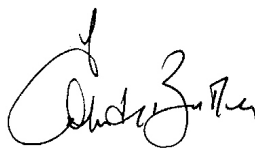
Signed:



Name: Mr John Butler

Position Held: Chairman, Somerset Advice Network

Signed:



SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces, including Territorial and Volunteer Reserve Forces, and their families working and residing in Somerset.

This partnership is made between them and the following:

Somerset County Council and the five District Councils

The Local Health Authority

The Business Community

Local Education interests

The Charitable and Voluntary Sector

Other private and public sector organisations as required

Religious Communities – Diocesan representative / Association of Church Groups

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

- 2.1 The Somerset 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, county level.
- 2.2 The purpose of the Somerset Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Community working and residing in Somerset and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Community. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel, their families and widow(er)s in Somerset and reservists.
- 2.3 For Somerset County Council and partner organisations, the Somerset 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.
- 2.4 For the Community, this Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian communities and offers the opportunity for 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 Somerset Armed Forces Community Covenant is intended to complement the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant at the national level which defines the enduring, general principles that govern the relationship between the nation, its Government and people and all those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces and their families.
- 3.2 The Somerset Armed Forces Community Covenant aims to encourage all parties within the county to offer support to Service personnel, families and veterans and their families residing, or wishing to reside, in the county and help them to access the help and support available from the MOD, statutory providers and the business, education, charitable and voluntary sectors.
- 3.3 This local Covenant should be a two-way benefit and the Armed Forces Community should seek to support their local community and integrate Service and civilian lives.

SECTION 4: HOW TO DO IT

- 4.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant shall form a Partnership with representatives of all partners to foster close cooperation with military and civilian agencies, with the common aim of achieving mutual benefit to all concerned.
- 4.2 Each partner shall monitor their own policies for observance of the principles of the Somerset Armed Forces Community Covenant to ensure that Armed Forces personnel and their families and their local communities benefit from the arrangement.
- 4.3 The supporting objectives of the Covenant's work plan will include, but are not limited to, the following:

To monitor the changing military footprint within Somerset

To establish the economic contribution of the military to the County

To identify community-building projects for the military community

To identify opportunities for projects which will enhance closer integration between civilian and military communities in Somerset

To assist the realignment of and access to, services which meet the changing needs of the military, their families and veterans

To ensure that Somerset remains an attractive county for long-term investment by the MOD

To create an imaginative and practical educational and training scheme for veterans and their families to encourage productive re-settlement in Somerset.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Contact Name: Kitty Jenkins
Title: DCDS (Pers) Sec Covenant 1
Telephone: 020 721 82619
Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team
Zone D, 6th Floor
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name: Brigadier Piers Hankinson
Title: Commanding Officer, HQ 43 (Wessex) Brigade
Telephone: 01980 656401
Address: Jellalabad Barracks, Tidworth,
Wiltshire, SP9 7BQ

Somerset County Council

Contact Name: Mrs Sue Paddick
Title: Senior Adviser, Community Governance
Telephone: 01823 356726
Fax: 01823 356788
Address: Room A8, Somerset County Council, County Hall,
Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4DY

Charities

Contact Name: Mr David Lowe
Title: Somerset County Manager, Royal British Legion
Telephone: 01872 225129
Address: Suite A, Crypton House, Bristol Road
Bridgwater, TA6 4SY

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.