An Armed Forces Community Covenant

between

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

and

One Barnsley

and

Berneslai Homes

and

The Royal British Legion (Barnsley branch)

and

The Armed Forces community in the
borough of Barnsley

Draft version last updated 31.10.2012
We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together to honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

Signed:
Name:
Position Held:
Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces
Date:

Signed:
Name:
Position Held:
Signed on behalf of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Date:

Signed:
Name:
Position Held:
Signed on behalf of Berneslai Homes
Date:

Signed:
Name:
Position Held:
Signed on behalf of the Royal British Legion (Barnsley Branch)
Date:

Signed:
Name:
Position Held:
Signed on behalf of the One Barnsley local strategic partnership
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 the borough of Barnsley
And
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
And
One Barnsley local strategic partnership
And
Berneslai Homes
And
The Royal British Legion (Barnsley branch)

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, at a local level, the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the nation, the government and the Armed Forces.

2.2 The purpose of this community covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces community working and residing in the borough of Barnsley and to recognise and remember the sacrifices, in some cases the ultimate sacrifice, made by members of this Armed Forces community. This community includes both current and ex-service personnel, their families and widow(er)s in Barnsley.

2.3 For Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and Berneslai Homes, the 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.
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.

2.5 For the Royal British Legion (Barnsley branch), the covenant will highlight their role in supporting ex-service personnel and raising the profile of the Armed Forces, most notably in ceremonial services such as Armistice Day and homecoming parades.

Section 3: Objectives and General Intentions

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 Ministry of Defence, from statutory providers and from the charitable and voluntary sector.

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 that integrates the service community into civilian life.

Section 4: Measures

4.1 Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and partners will:

• Introduce champions at cabinet level for the Armed Forces. This means that cabinet portfolio holders will be champions for the Armed Forces as part of their role.

• Have an identified nominated senior officer to participate in local/ regional Armed Forces support networks and be the lead contact within the council for liaison with the Armed Forces. This officer is currently the head of Corporate Communications.
• Publicise and promote opportunities for the wider Barnsley community to celebrate and commemorate the Armed Forces, including Armistice Day and homecoming parades for the local regiment(s).

• Acknowledge the sacrifices made by service personnel killed on active duty by flying the flag on Barnsley Town Hall at half mast when appropriate.

• Take part in wider regional initiatives designed to improve the support provided to residents who have served in the Armed Forces.

• Ensure that key council services are briefed and able to support both serving Armed Forces and ex-service personnel with their enquiries.

• Continue to recognise the specific housing difficulties faced by people leaving the Armed Forces and ensure that this is recognised and given relevant consideration in the priority given to their application for council homes.

• Continue to work with recognised Armed Forces charities such as the Regular Forces Employment Agency in developing local housing and employment initiatives.

• Ensure that we continue to support employees who volunteer for Armed Forces Reserve duties.

• Publicise and promote our service contact numbers, emails and website to Armed Forces personnel.

• Work to identify Armed Forces personnel/veterans within the borough and ensure that they are fully engaged in the democratic and consultation processes.

• Report annually to full council on the implementation/impact of this covenant.

The Armed Forces will:
• Deliver an annual update to council presenting their operational experiences and what any planned changes as a result of defence policy might mean at a local level.

• Undertake involvement in community activities, such as community events and voluntary opportunities.

Contact personnel and telephone numbers

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The Armed Forces Covenant (National)

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.