Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

Between

Spelthorne Borough Council, representatives of the Public, Business, Charitable and Voluntary Sectors, and the Civilian Community of the Borough of Spelthorne

and

The Armed Forces Community, Past & Present in the Borough of Spelthorne
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, 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.
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 Spelthorne

And

Spelthorne Borough Council

And

The Public, Business, 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 the Borough of Spelthorne 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 The Borough of Spelthorne.

2.3 For Spelthorne 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 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 Ministry of Defence, 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 is 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 Spelthorne Borough Council, the public, business, charitable and voluntary sectors and the Armed Forces charities will work with the Armed Forces Community to achieve the aims of this community covenant and ensure that the Borough of Spelthorne remains an inclusive and welcoming home for military personnel and civilians alike.

4.2 Spelthorne Borough Council, the public, business, charitable and voluntary sectors and the Armed Forces charities will work with the Armed Forces Community to support projects meeting the aims of the this community covenant.

4.3 Spelthorne Borough Council will support the work that is being undertaken by Surrey County Council as part of the Surrey Armed Forces Community Covenant.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Tg) Covenant Team

Email address: covenant-mailbox@mod.uk
Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team
Zone D, 6th Floor
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Council: Spelthorne Borough Council
Named Officer: Mr Michael Graham, Head of Corporate Governance

Email address: m.graham@spelthorne.gov.uk
Address: Spelthorne Borough Council
Council Offices
Knowle Green
Staines-upon-Thames
TW18 1XB
We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together to honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

Signatories

Councillor Tony Harman, Mayor of Spelthorne Borough Council
Signed on behalf of Spelthorne Borough Council

Roberto Tambini, Chief Executive of Spelthorne Borough Council
Signed on behalf of Spelthorne Borough Council

Councillor Robert Watts, Leader of Spelthorne Council
Signed on behalf of Spelthorne Borough Council

Capt. Neal Archer, 135 Geo Sqn, Royal Engineers
Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces

Councillor Spencer Taylor
Spelthorne Borough Council Member Champion of the Community Covenant

Councillor Robin Sider
Spelthorne Borough Council World War One Champion

County Councillor Sally Marks, Vice Chairman
Signed on behalf of Surrey County Council

County Councillor Richard Walsh, Chairman of the Local Committee
Signed on behalf of Spelthorne Local Committee
Alison Johnston, Flight Lieutenant RAFVR (T) Officer Commanding
Signed on behalf of Air Cadets Sunbury

Derrick Budd, Flight Lieutenant RAFVR (T) Officer Commanding
Signed on behalf of Air Cadets Staines

Kamila Michalska, Cadet Corporal
Signed on behalf of the 195 Staines Army Cadet Force

Sub Lieutenant Lucy Seex RNR
Signed on behalf of Staines and Egham Sea Cadets

James Gazzard, Branch Chairman
Signed on behalf of Sunbury Royal British Legion

Keith Ovens, Immediate Past County Chairman Royal British Legion Surrey
Signed on behalf of Surrey Royal British Legion

Debra Jane Lock, Staines and Ashford Divisional Secretary
Signed on behalf of Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association (SSAFA)

Bill Sykes
Signed on behalf of War Pensions

Mary C Haarer
Signed on behalf of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Association

Canon Peter Bruinvels,
Signed on behalf of Army Benevolent Fund Surrey – The Soldiers Charity
Inspector Ian St. John, Spelthorne Neighbourhood Inspector
Signed on behalf of Surrey Police

Anna Burridge, Area Director (South)
Signed on behalf of A2Dominion Housing Association

Mikhael Newman, International Centre for Business & Technology Reputation Director
Signed on behalf of British Petroleum (BP)

Nigel Milton, Director of Policy & Political Relations
Signed on behalf of Heathrow Airport

Phil White, General Manager of the Jockey Club
Signed on behalf of Kempton Park

Dr Sabine Lohmann, Chair of Spelthorne Business Forum
Signed on behalf of the Spelthorne Business Forum

Paul Thompson, Trustee and Director
Signed on behalf of Runnymede and Spelthorne Citizens Advice Bureau

John Griffiths MBE, Head of Operational Support
Signed on behalf of South East Coast Ambulance Service

Suzanne Rankin, Chief Nurse
Signed on behalf of Ashford and St. Peter's Hospital

Elizabeth Mackendar-Moore
Signed on behalf of Voluntary Action in Spelthorne (VAIS)
Barry Muggeridge, Chairman of Ashford Pride
Signed on behalf of Ashford Pride

Reverend John Miller
Signed on behalf of Churches Together in Staines & Laleham

Stuart Duguid, Chair of the Spelthorne Branch of UNISON
Signed on behalf of UNISON