



Community Covenant

between

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND BUSINESS SECTOR, AND
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY IN BRIGHTON & HOVE**

and

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

dated



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Draft

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE

SECTION 1 – PARTICIPANTS

1. This Brighton & Hove Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:
 - a. Serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working, residing and visiting in Brighton & Hove, and
 - b. Brighton & Hove Council, and
 - c. Other participating groups within Brighton & Hove.

SECTION 2 – PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

2. This Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between the Brighton & Hove civilian community and the Armed Forces Community in Brighton & Hove. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant (Annex A), which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces at the local level. The core principle of the Armed Forces Covenant is that members of the Armed Forces Community should:

- a. Not suffer disadvantage compared to other citizens as a result of their service;
- b. Receive equality of outcomes; and
- c. Receive specialised treatment where appropriate.

3. The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working, residing and visiting in Brighton & Hove and to recognise and to remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes Service personnel and Service veterans, their families and their widow(er)s.

4. For Brighton & Hove City Council, this Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring its knowledge, experience and expertise to bear in the provision of support, help and advice to members of the Brighton & Hove Armed Forces Community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work on other initiatives such as the Welfare Pathway¹.

¹ The Welfare Pathway brings together services to support veterans and uses existing Gateways as the access point.

5. For the Brighton & Hove Armed Forces Community, this Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life with civilian life and encourages members of the Brighton & Hove Armed Forces Community to help their local community.

SECTION 3 – AIMS AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

6. This Community Covenant complements 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.

7. It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces Community and to 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 Community & Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership and at local level.

8. The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and members of the Brighton & Hove Armed Forces Community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support the Brighton & Hove civilian community and to promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

SECTION 4 - MEASURES

9. Brighton & Hove City Council will establish a Community Covenant Civil Military Partnership Board (CMPB) in order to better focus on overall aims and objectives of the community covenant and to help facilitate the provision of support to the Brighton & Hove Armed Forces Community. This Community Covenant Civil Military Partnership Board will work closely with the Armed Forces Community, statutory providers and the Community & Voluntary Sector in Brighton & Hove in order to help identify projects and facilitate implementation. The Community Covenant Civil Military Partnership Board will measure success and will report half-yearly progress.

10. Brighton & Hove City Council will help support the long-term planning and decision making in the support services provided by the Council to the Armed Forces in Brighton & Hove subject to the availability of funds . Brighton & Hove City Council will also co-ordinate and facilitate joint Council/Military Community projects as identified and agreed by the Community Covenant Civil Military Partnership Board. Brighton & Hove City Council will also seek opportunities to involve the local business community in joint projects and activities.

11. Signatories to this Brighton & Hove Community Covenant will work together with the Armed Forces Community in Brighton & Hove and with other individuals and organisations in Brighton & Hove to further the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant.

We, the undersigned, agree to work and to act together to honour this Brighton & Hove Armed Forces Community Covenant

Signed on behalf of Brighton & Hove City Council	Signed on behalf of Community & Voluntary Sector	Signed on behalf of Business Sector	Signed on behalf of Brighton &* Hove Military Community
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Signed on behalf of other Participating Organisations

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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.

