



## Douglas Borough Council

**We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.**



## **Statement by D W Christian MBE JP Leader of the Council**

I am pleased to present this 'Armed Forces Community Covenant' which is an official declaration that Douglas Borough Council proposes to sign in recognition of, and support for, those island residents who serve, or have served, in the British Armed Forces.

This Community Covenant is intended as a voluntary statement of mutual support which underpins the Isle of Man Government Armed Forces Community Covenant. It also supports the UK Government Armed Forces Covenant which sets out the responsibilities to those who serve or have served in the British Armed Forces and their families.

Men and women from the Isle of Man have served with distinction in the British Armed Forces over the centuries, including both World Wars, in which the sacrifice made by Manx service personnel was particularly high.

The purpose of the Community Covenant is to encourage recognition of the contribution made by these members of the Armed Forces, both past and present, and to ensure that appropriate local support is available for them and their families. It does not seek to confer advantages on service personnel in the provision of public and commercial services, but rather to identify and where possible to remove disadvantages.

As the Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Executive Committee of Council it is my intention to facilitate and promote the resolution of Douglas Borough Council that:-

'The Council should strengthen its existing support for the Armed Forces by signing an Armed Forces' Community Covenant.'

The Council already has existing links and an excellent relationship with the Armed Forces, such as the annual commemoration of Remembrance Sunday, the granting of the Freedom of the Borough to the 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and the up-keep of the War Memorial.

This covenant is a public demonstration of that commitment.

**DW Christian MBE JP  
Leader of the Council**

The Signing of the  
Douglas Borough Council Armed Forces Covenant  
at the Army Reserve Centre Isle of Man  
Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Signed on behalf of Douglas Borough Council**

**Name:** Mr Councillor John Edward Skinner JP.

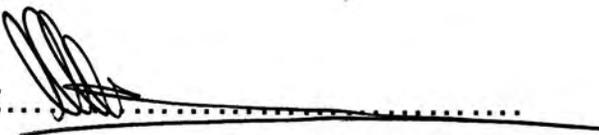
**Position:** His Worship the Mayor of Douglas

Signed:.....

**Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces Community**

**Name:** S/Sgt Ian Openshaw

**Position:** Isle of Man Army Reserve 2IC

Signed:.....

## **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 Isle of Man**

**and**

**Douglas Borough Council.**

- 1.2 Douglas Borough Council is the largest local authority on the Island and provides services to residents, and visitors, to the capital, Douglas. The Council is committed to encouraging support for those who serve in the Armed Forces, their families and dependents, Reservists and Veterans, who reside in or who are from the island and is pleased to evidence that commitment through this Armed Forces Community Covenant.

The Isle of Man is a Dependency of the British Crown with Her Majesty The Queen as the Lord of Mann. The Isle of Man is not a part of the United Kingdom; it is self-governing with its own independent legal, administrative and fiscal systems.

The Island has historically close ties with Britain and Manx people have served with distinction in the British Armed Forces over the centuries, including both World Wars in which the sacrifice made by Manx Service Personnel was particularly high. Today there continues to be significant numbers of Manx people serving in the British Armed Forces with the links between the Island and the Armed Forces in the North West of England being particularly strong.

Overall responsibility for defence of the realm, including the Isle of Man, lies with the Government of the United Kingdom. The Armed Forces covenant sets out the relationship between the Armed Forces and the UK Government. The Covenant is reproduced at the end of this document.

## **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 British nation, Her Majesty's Government and the Armed Forces, at a local level.
- 2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces community working and residing in the Isle of Man 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 Isle of Man.

- 2.3 For Douglas Borough Council, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring its 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.
- 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 British Nation, Her Majesty's Government and the Armed Forces community of which Douglas Borough Council is fully supportive.
- 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 Douglas Borough Council is committed to:
  - Recognising and remembering the sacrifices faced by the Armed Services Community for example in annual commemorations at Remembrance Day and Armed Forces Day
  - Welcoming Armed Forces visitors to the Island, honouring those in particular with whom the Isle of Man has special links
  - Working with Armed Service associations to nurture understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues facing those within the Armed Forces community both past and present

- Continuing to develop and strengthen links with those Isle of Man and UK Government departments most closely associated with Armed Forces personnel and their welfare, in particular the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Health
- Acknowledging the important role of the Cadet Forces of all military services and their valuable contribution to the Youth and Community Services of the Isle of Man
- Promoting awareness of the role and significant of the Armed Forces within the Isle of Man by bringing together serving personnel, veterans, youth, schools, local charitable bodies and voluntary organisations
- Assisting to develop ways of improving access to information for serving and ex-Service personnel and their families in respect of support and services in the Isle of Man

Douglas Borough Council will review on an annual basis or more frequently as needed, the measures that it is taking to implement the principles of the Armed Forces Community Covenant and consider if further actions would be helpful.

**CONTACT PERSONNEL**

**DOUGLAS BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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Ridgeway Street  
Douglas  
Isle of Man  
IM99 1AD**

# **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.