

**Community Covenant**



Central  
Bedfordshire  
**Together**

# **CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

BETWEEN

**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE TOGETHER**

AND

**THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY  
IN CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE**



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

**Signatories**

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

**Signed:**

**Name:** Brigadier M J Hallas OBE ADC

**Position Held:** Commandant Defence Intelligence and Security Centre Chicksands

**Date:** 15 December 2011

**Signed on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Together**

**Signed**

**Name** Councillor Tricia Turner MBE

**Position Held** Chairman, Central Bedfordshire Together

**Date** 15 December 2011

**In the presence of**

## **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 Central Bedfordshire

and

Central Bedfordshire Together, which comprises Central Bedfordshire Council, and representatives of the local Police, Fire, Health, Business, Education, Town and Parish Councils and the Voluntary and Community Sectors of Central Bedfordshire.

## **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 Central Bedfordshire 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 Central Bedfordshire.
- 2.3 For Central Bedfordshire Together and its 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.
- 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 voluntary and community sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at a 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 Central Bedfordshire Council and its partners will work closely with its Armed Forces Communities to deliver initiatives under the strategic leadership of the Central Bedfordshire Together Board.
- 4.2 Central Bedfordshire Together also provides the opportunity for working together at a local level with the Armed Forces Services to co-ordinate and implement measures which benefit our communities, in order to optimise the economic and social benefits of the military presence in the area.
- 4.3 We will ensure that all residents and communities of Central Bedfordshire benefit from the best possible level of service at all times. However, where members of the Armed Forces Community need additional support or services to ensure the same fair and equal access as the rest of the local community, we will work closely with the Armed Forces Services to do so, in recognition of the value of their contribution.
- 4.4 Central Bedfordshire Council recognises the special circumstances of Military Personnel and their families and this will be taken into account when implementing its policies. The Council has appointed a Lead Member to act as Armed Forces Community Covenant Champion: Councillor Mark Versallion, Executive Member.
- 4.5 Our three main objectives are:
- to ensure fair and equal access to provision that meets the needs of the military, their families (known as dependants) and veterans, as any other member of the local community;
  - to spot opportunities for collaboration with the Armed Forces Community and build sustainable communities in the area; and
  - to ensure that Central Bedfordshire continues to remain an attractive location for long-term investment by the Ministry of Defence.
- 4.6 Central Bedfordshire Together will continue to provide leadership, decision making, and oversight for initiatives and measures which support our Armed Forces Community in order to evidence this Community Covenant.

## CONTACT PERSONNEL

### MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

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### Central Bedfordshire Together

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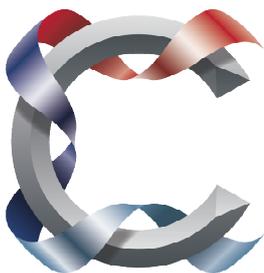
### Central Bedfordshire Council

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### Central Bedfordshire Armed Forces Community Covenant Champion

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