

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL	7 NOVEMBER 2019	AGENDA ITEM: 22
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Report Prepared by Angie Price – Town Clerk

ARMED FORCES COVENANT PARTNERSHIP

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to ask Members to give consideration to signing up to Herefordshire's Armed Forces Covenant Partnership.

Detailed Information

Herefordshire's Armed Forces Covenant Partnership is committed to improve the support available for Armed Forces Veterans in Herefordshire as part of a National Covenant.

What is the Armed Forces Covenant?

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation that those who serve or have served in the armed forces and their families, will be treated fairly.

The Covenant has five aims:-

- Encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces communities in their areas;
- Nurture public understanding and public awareness of the issues affecting the Armed Forces community;
- Recognise and remember sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces community;
- Encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces community into local life;
- Encourage the Armed Forces community to help and support the wider community.

The Covenant supports serving personnel, service leavers, veterans and their families and is fulfilled by the different groups that have committed to making a difference.

The Covenant for Herefordshire was signed in May 2012 by the Armed Forces community, Armed Forces Charities and representatives from the public, private and community sectors.

Employers can choose specific promises or pledges to support their employees within the armed forces community; Local authorities promise to encourage local communities in supporting the armed forces community, including promoting understanding and awareness.

The Covenant should be signed by someone in authority who will make sure that these promises are implemented. It could also be co-signed by a member of the armed forces.

You can pledge to:

- Promote the fact you are an armed forces-friendly organisation;
- Support the employment of veterans and service leavers;
- Offer flexibility in leave for service spouses and partner before, during and after deployment;
- Support reservist employees, allowing leave for training and deployment

An example of the Covenant is attached for information.

Recommendation

That Members give consideration to the above information and resolve to sign Hereford's Armed Forces Covenant, pledging to encourage local communities in supporting the armed forces community, including promoting understanding and awareness.



Leominster Town 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.

Signed on behalf of:
Ministry of Defence

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Hitchman
Position: Headquarters 11 Signals and West Midlands Brigade

Date: 25th June 2018



Ministry
of Defence

Signed on behalf of:
Leominster Town Council

Name: Councillor Jennifer Bartlett
Position: Leominster Town Mayor

Date: 25th June 2018



Signed on behalf of:
The Royal British Legion

Name: Mr Frank Low
Position: Chairman, Leominster Branch
Date: 25th June 2018



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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.

Section 1: Principles of the Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 **Leominster Town Council** will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- *No member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen;*
- *In some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.*

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 **Leominster Town Council** recognises the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our local community. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- *Encouraging and supporting the Armed Forces Communities, which includes veterans, service leavers, reservists, the spouses and families of serving members of the Armed Forces and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers within its Parish, enabling where possible the Armed Forces Community to help and support the wider community.*
- *Recognising and remembering the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces Community.*
- *Restoring and maintaining the Memorial to the Fallen Armed Forces of Leominster.*
- *Encouraging the continuation of Armistice Day within the Armed Forces and wider local community.*
- *Continuing to encourage the growth of veteran support groups within Leominster's Polish Community and other similar communities in the town.*
- *Supporting the ongoing health and well-being of current and ex-service personnel, co-ordinating auxiliary organisations if required.*
- *Encouraging and supporting members of the Leominster Town Council staff to be actively involved as Adult Volunteers within the Armed Forces Cadet community.*

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and/or on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are doing.