



Social and Community Value in Defence

VINCI Facilities' FDIS Built Estate contract with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) prioritises social value, creating lasting legacies for local communities with a strong emphasis on sports, fitness, and wellbeing

A strategic focus

To ensure that social value is a strategic outcome of its Defence activities, VINCI Facilities has developed a comprehensive social value framework and utilises a balanced scorecard, created in collaboration with the DIO. This outlines clear strategies and targets to enhance social value across South East England, with rigorous reporting to track and evidence the company's commitments.

Aligned with the contract's ISO 44001 accreditation, collaboration is a key focus for social value initiatives and helps to maximise the available resources for each activity. VINCI Facilities encourages its contract team to participate by offering each colleague two days of paid leave annually to take part in social value events and engages supply chain partners through initiatives such as an annual Supplier Engagement Day.

Over the course of the first two years of the contract, VINCI Facilities delivered a substantial **£828,000** worth of social value via fundraising, volunteering, sponsorship, and training/development activities.

VINCI Facilities' engagement with the Armed Forces Covenant, BuildForce, and the Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) further demonstrates its dedication to supporting the defence community, fostering meaningful employment and promoting long-term partnerships with service leavers and veterans – culminating in the team receiving the coveted ERS Gold Award.

Going the extra mile – fundraising challenges

VINCI Facilities and its supply chain have worked together to raise over **£27,000** for worthy causes, with a focus on military-related charities. Key fundraising events include:

National Three Peaks Challenge: A standout success saw 22 employees and partners complete the National Three Peaks Challenge. The £9,300 raised was distributed to Make 2nds Count (a cancer charity, in honour of a colleague who sadly passed away from the disease) and Veterans In Action.

170-mile bike ride challenge: Another key event involved 14 colleagues completing a 170-mile bike ride challenge, raising £5,000 for the mental health charity Mates in Mind and Scotty's Little Soldiers, a charity that supports bereaved military children. To lead by example, both VINCI Facilities' Managing Director and Defence Operations Director participated in the event.

13 Bridges Challenge: A team of colleagues also took part in the 13 Bridges Challenge to raise funds for SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity. This 10-mile journey took them across 13 London bridges in celebration of National Armed Forces Day.



Working with





Sea Cadets refurbishment



Creating a new outdoor space at Combermere Barracks



Creation of sixty allotments



Battle of Britain Memorial refurbishment

Volunteering

A total of **£366,000** has been contributed through volunteering efforts designed to enhance community assets and environmental projects for the benefit of military personnel and their families. Key areas of focus for the volunteering include:

1: Enhancing community assets

Refurb for the Sea Cadets: Over the course of two weeks, VINCI Facilities and its supply chain partners dedicated time and resources to refurbish Training Ship Swiftsure, a prominent Sea Cadet building in Surrey. In addition, the team collaborated with Ringway, a subsidiary of the VINCI Group, to carry out repairs on the road and car park. The newly refurbished site was proudly unveiled during the Sea Cadets' first parade following their summer break.

Refurb of the Army Training Centre Pirbright: Working with two key suppliers, VINCI Facilities refurbished the Jubilee Community Centre at the Army Training Centre Pirbright. The project included extensive upgrades to kitchens, toilets, meeting rooms, and dormitories, as well as a full redecoration throughout. Warrant Officer Billy Braithwaite, Infrastructure Lead at Army Training Centre Pirbright, remarked: "I would like to extend my gratitude to BJJ, VINCI, and DIO for their ongoing collaboration on projects like this, which significantly enhance our community."

Refurbs at Combermere Barracks: In partnership with two contractors and Travis Perkins, VINCI Facilities redecorated a welfare flat and cleared the back garden. In a second event, the team collaborated with four suppliers over four days to convert an unused outdoor space into a welcoming seating area where service members can relax and socialise.

Creation of allotments: VINCI Facilities and key supply chain partners created a 0.12-hectare allotment site for the military community at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Sixty new allotment plots were established, including wheelchair-accessible plots, gravel paths, compost bins, and a seating area. Opened by Dame Penelope Keith CBE, the allotments encourage plot holders to be more active and provide the opportunity to produce home-grown fruits and vegetables.

2: Honouring our heroes

Battle of Britain Memorial: In a flagship event, nearly 100 volunteers including 30 VINCI Facilities colleagues worked tirelessly to refurbish The Battle of Britain Memorial in Caple-Ferne, Kent.

Additional smaller events regularly take place to support military heroes, including running poppy appeals, and sponsoring the SSAFA Christmas carol concert.

3: Protecting the environment

Beach cleans: Keen to protect the local environment, VINCI Facilities' team and supply chain partners have volunteered their time to litter-pick beaches near military sites, including Folkestone beach (adjacent to Shorncliffe Barracks) and Thorney Island beach (adjacent to Baker Barracks).

Beehives: In collaboration with supply chain partners and the High Wycombe Beekeepers Association, VINCI Facilities installed a beehive at RAF High Wycombe that is now home to 40,000 bees. The team levelled the area, installed steps, fence panels, and used wood chips from local trees. Honey from the hive will be sold, with proceeds supporting Station charities. Squadron Leader Andrew Harwin praised the result, saying, "It has completely exceeded expectations."

Folkestone beach clean



High Wycombe beehive





Sponsoring military sports and events

VINCI Facilities is proud to sponsor worthy causes that the military supports, particularly those focused on fitness-related events. Since 2022, the company has contributed **£128,000** in sponsorship, with notable examples including:

- » Army Cricket Development XI: £9,600 annually for three years.
- » T20 Tri-Service Annual Cricket Tournament at Lord's: £6,500.
- » Lord Ian Botham's Charity Dinner: £2,000.
- » RAF Northolt Rugby Team: £3,000.
- » RAF Odiham Awards Gala: £2,000 sponsorship to celebrate service achievements.

VINCI Facilities also proudly contributed £6,000 to support the Salty Sappers, a team of four serving soldiers from the Army's Corps of Royal Engineers, in their entry into the 2024 World's Toughest Row - Pacific. This gruelling 2,800-mile journey across the mid-Pacific was completed in an impressive 36 days. In a fantastic result, the Salty Sappers emerged victorious, coming first place in the race.

Employment and development

Employment and workforce development has been another key focus of VINCI Facilities' social value strategy, with **£147,000** investing in training and developing colleagues in year one, followed by **£160,000** in year two.

Demonstrating a strong commitment to support ex-military personnel, VINCI Facilities employs 43 veterans within the FDIS team, with many occupying senior roles. To further promote the recruitment of veterans and service leavers into meaningful roles within the company, VINCI Facilities has hosted Supplier Engagement events, open to all its contractors at the Middle Wallop Museum of Army Flying.

This commitment is further supported by VINCI Facilities' endorsement of the Armed Forces Covenant, active participation in two annual BuildForce recruitment fairs, and ongoing engagement at Employer Recognition Scheme events, including an invitation from MoD to provide industry advice to the new government's development of the Strategic Defence Review.

So strong is VINCI Facilities' commitment to the defence community that it has been recognised with the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award, acknowledging the company as a leading employer in the defence sector.



"VINCI Facilities has been instrumental in my transition from an 11-year infantry career to my current role as Site Works Manager. Joining through BuildForce, I found immediate support and opportunities to apply my military skills in a new context. VINCI's understanding of my background has enabled me to manage five sites effectively, drawing on my experiences to relate to our MOD clients. Their commitment to my growth and the alignment of our values have made this transition seamless."

Josh Pike, Site Works Manager, VINCI Facilities

"VINCI's thoughtful approach made my transition from the British Army to a civilian role not just manageable but genuinely positive. They gave me the time and support needed to prepare for my new career, ensuring I could bring my skills to the role of Defence Relationship Manager effectively. VINCI's values, so closely aligned with those of the Armed Forces, and their trust in my abilities, have made this transition not just a job change, but a continuation of my service in a new capacity."

Stuart Grout MBE, Defence Relationship Manager, VINCI Facilities

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Grand opening of the allotments by Dame Penelope Keith CBE



Poppy appeal



Bike ride challenge



Three Peaks challenge



Battle of Britain Memorial refurbishment



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