



## Nuneaton and Bedworth 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.

Signed on behalf of:  
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Signed on behalf of:  
Ministry of Defence

Name: **Councillor Clare Golby**  
Position: **Deputy Leader**  
Date: **30<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Name: **Colonel NJ Sutherland**  
Position: **Assistant Commander Reserves HQ Centre**  
Date: **30<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Nuneaton  
&  
Bedworth**   
**United to Achieve**



**Ministry  
of Defence**

# The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom

His 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 We Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough 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 We recognise the value that serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business and to our country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- **Promoting the Armed Forces:** promoting the fact that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation, to our staff, customers, suppliers, contractors and wider public;
- **Veterans:** supporting the employment of veterans, recognising military skills and qualifications in our recruitment and selection process;
- **Service Spouses & Partners:** supporting the employment of Service spouses and partners; and providing flexibility in granting leave for Service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner's deployment;
- **Reserves:** supporting our employees who are members of the Reserve Forces; granting additional 10 days paid leave for annual Reserve Forces training; supporting any mobilisations and deployment; actively encouraging members of staff to become Reservists;
- **Cadet Organisations:** supporting our employees who are volunteer leaders in military cadet organisations, granting additional leave to attend annual training camps and courses; actively encouraging members of staff to become volunteer leaders in cadet organisations; supporting local military cadet units; recognising the benefits of employing cadets/ex-cadets within the workforce;
- **National and Local Events:** supporting Armed Forces Day, Reserves Day, the Poppy Appeal Day and Remembrance activities; We will work with our local Armed Forces partners to ensure that both national and local events are supported, and promoted;
- **Armed Forces Charities:** supporting Armed Forces charities with fundraising and supporting staff who volunteer to assist;
- **Commercial Support:** offering a discount to members of the Armed Forces community;
- **Housing Support:** Our Housing Solutions Team have a long-established, mutually supportive working relationship with Veteran Contact Point in Nuneaton. We work closely to support former Armed Forces members and Veterans to apply for accommodation and to find solutions for those at risk of losing their home. All applicants completing our on-line application process for housing, are asked to identify if they are serving or former members of the armed or reserve forces. Once they identify themselves, they are automatically sent a digital support leaflet that give specific advice and important links to external services for the Armed Forces.

Our Allocation policy closely follows the statutory requirements for the Armed Forces to award additional preferences, placing them in the highest priority banding for housing, providing they meet the other eligibility criteria to join our waiting list;

- **Homeless Veterans:** Our Rough Sleeper Outreach Forum meet every 4 weeks to discuss the risks, concerns, and housing needs of rough sleepers. Our Forum includes representation from health, homelessness, substance misuse and disability support agencies; all identify former armed forces personnel sleeping rough as part of their assessment process. They work together to provide multi-agency support, tailored to the individual's needs, including working with Veteran Contact Point to try to find long term solutions for armed force veterans with multiple complex needs;
- **Human Resources:** Provide support to veterans, service leavers and spouses as and when required; provide a buddy system to veterans and service leavers to support them during their transition into work.

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