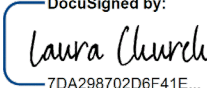




## Bedford Borough Council

**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 the Council and our country.**

### Bedford Borough Council

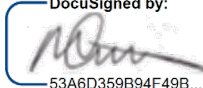
Signed:   
7DA298702D6F41E...

Name: Laura Church

Position: Chief Executive

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### Military Representative

Signed:   
53A6D359B94F49B...

Name: Capt. Ian Cutting

Position: 158 Regiment RLC

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024



# **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, **Bedford Borough Council**, will endeavour to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant:

- Members of the Armed Forces Community should not face disadvantages arising from their service in the provision of public and commercial services.
- In some circumstances special provision may be justified, especially for those who have given the most, such as the injured or bereaved.

## **Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment**

2.1 We recognise the contribution that Service personnel, reservists, veterans, the cadet movement and military families make to our organisation, our community and to the country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant by:

### **Promoting that we are an Armed forces-friendly organisation by:**

- Appointing an Armed Forces Champion and Armed Forces Senior Officer to promote and support the Armed Forces community within Bedford Borough.
- Publicising and displaying our commitment to the Armed Forces covenant through our website and publications.
- Creating and maintaining an Armed Forces friendly and informative network throughout the Council.

### **Seeking to support the employment of members of the Armed Forces, Veterans and other members of the Armed Forces Community by:**

- Recognising transferable military skills and qualifications of service leavers
- Building a defence-friendly workforce through our guaranteed interview scheme for Veterans and offer a work experience scheme for Cadets.
- Supporting the employment of Veterans; recognising that they are a valued part of the community; facilitating and encouraging their participation in civic and community events.
- Providing a link to the Veterans Gateway on our website; encouraging local businesses to support the employment of veterans.
- Supporting the employment of Service spouses and partners and encourage local businesses to support their employment.

### **Raising awareness and supporting the local Armed Forces Community by:**

- Encouraging support for the Reserve Forces; encouraging local businesses to support the employment of Reservists.

- Encouraging support for military sponsored Cadet Organisations; encouraging support for membership of local cadets.

**Upholding our Civic responsibilities by:**

- Supporting and promoting support for Armed Forces events such as local Breakfast Clubs, Armed Forces Community Hubs, Armed Forces Day, Reserves Day, the Poppy Appeal Day and Remembrance activities.
- Holding regular Bedford Borough Covenant Steering Group meetings.

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 Armed Forces Community and our customers on how we are doing.