



## Eastleigh Borough Council

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**We commit to uphold the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the contribution that Service personnel, both regular and reservist, veterans and military families make to our organisation, our community and to the country.**

Signed on behalf of:

**Eastleigh Borough Council**

Signed:

Name: Andrew Saunders

Position: Health and Communities  
Partnership Manager

Date: 30/01/2024

**The Ministry of Defence**

Signed:

Name:

Position:

Date:



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, **Eastleigh 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:

### Awareness

- **Promoting the Armed Forces:** We will promote that Eastleigh Borough Council is an Armed Forces-friendly organisation to colleagues, communities, suppliers and the wider public.
- **National Events:** We will support local Armed Forces Events, including Eastleigh Remembers, Armed Forces Day, Armistice Day, and Remembrance Day.
- **Training:** We will regularly review and update our Armed Forces Covenant webpage to include links to training, useful information, and support to a range of Health and Wellbeing services. [Armed Forces Community Covenant | Eastleigh Borough Council](#)
- **Equality:** We will work alongside our Equality Focus Group to ensure fair treatment for the Armed Forces Community.

### Commitment

- **Job Placement:** We will support the employment of veterans, recognising military skills and qualifications in our recruitment and selection process.
- **Reserves:** We will support our employees who are members of the Reserve Forces by offering employees who are Reserves 10 days paid leave to support their ongoing annual Reserve Forces training; supporting any mobilisations and deployments; and actively promote the support offered to colleagues who are members of the Reserved Forces.
- **Housing:** We will provide advice and support for the Armed Forces community following discharge from military services, including homelessness prevention and housing. [Housing for Armed Forces Personnel \(eastleigh.gov.uk\)](#)

### Support

- **Engagement:** We will work closely with local community organisations to help promote activity for Armed Forces personnel and their families.
- **Funding:** We will help to identify funding opportunities for community groups which support the Armed Forces Community.
- **Concessions:** We will continue to provide concessionary schemes for Armed Forces, through a range of EBC services, and promoted these on our website.

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.