



**Corporate
Covenant**

The Armed Forces Corporate Covenant

Rochdale Boroughwide Housing

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 Rochdale Boroughwide Housing

Signed:

Name: Lynne Brosnan

Position Held: Chair, Representative Body

Date: 19th September 2014



Ministry
of Defence

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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.

Principles Of The Armed Forces Corporate Covenant

Rochdale Boroughwide Housing ('RBH') 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.

Demonstrating our Commitment

Rochdale Boroughwide Housing recognises the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- promoting the fact that we are an armed forces-friendly organisation;
- endeavouring to offer a degree of flexibility in granting special leave for Service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner's deployment in line with existing special leave provisions;
- seeking to support our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve forces, including by accommodating their training and deployment where possible, in line with existing provisions;
- supporting members of the armed forces and those who have served in the past who are looking for a home with Rochdale Boroughwide Housing
- supporting members of former members of the armed forces to live independently in RBH homes where possible
- offering volunteering opportunities for those leaving the armed forces, in line with our volunteering policy

We will publicise these commitments 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.

How RBH will meet the Armed Forces Community Covenant

In signing the Armed Forces Corporate Covenant, RBH made a pledge to support current and former members of the armed forces in a variety of ways. How we meet the commitments outlined in the pledge are described below.

We promote the fact that we are an armed forces-friendly organisation;

We have a dedicated part of our website which outlines our support for members of the armed forces, what services we provide and links to other relevant agencies.

We are members of Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council's Armed Forces Covenant Group and signatories to the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

More information can be found at:

http://www.rbh.org.uk/your_services/support_for_the_armed_forces.aspx

We consider special leave where possible for Service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner's deployment in line with our existing special leave provisions;

Support managers to be as flexible as possible when considering leave requests from partners of those serving in the armed forces whilst still ensuring service provision.

Rochdale Boroughwide Housing support our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve forces, by accommodating their training and deployment needs where possible in line with existing provisions;

Where possible, training and deployment needs of members of the Reserve Forces will be met.

We support members of the armed forces both served and serving looking for a home with Rochdale Boroughwide Housing

Current and former service people are given additional preference through RBH's lettings policy and local connection criteria are not considered for applicants from the armed forces from outside the borough.

The HomeChoice team will provide advice and assistance on housing options for ex – service personnel, and link with organisations such as the Royal British Legion to help provide furniture packs for new tenants where possible

We support members or former members of the armed forces to live independently in RBH homes where possible.

RBH employees will take into account any special requirements of ex service personnel who are living in our homes, and link in with the relevant support agencies where required.

In partnership with RMBC, we can adapt our homes to meet the needs of injured service personnel where possible, depending on the circumstances of the individual case.

Rochdale Boroughwide Housing offer volunteering opportunities for those leaving the armed forces, in line with our volunteering policy

RBH operate a volunteering scheme for people looking to develop new skills to help fund future employment. This is open to current and former members of the armed forces and we will promote this through the wider armed forces community.