



Oadby & Wigston 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:

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Signed:

L. Carter

Signed:

AMEE CAR

Position:

Mayor

Position:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Date:

21st Oct 2019

Date:

21st Oct 2019



Oadby & Wigston
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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.

Section 1: Principles Of The Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 We, **Oadby & Wigston 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

We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant with the following actions and outcomes.

2.1 **Armed Forces Champion & Lead Officer.** We will appoint an Armed Forces Champion (ideally an elected member) and a Lead Officer, empowered to effect change across the Council.

2.2 **Action Plan.** We will produce and publish an Action Plan to underpin the Covenant commitment; this will help to set out the overall direction and to ensure that the authority keeps on track.

2.3 **Stakeholder Engagement.** A Council representative will attend meetings of the Leicestershire & Rutland Armed Forces Covenant Civil Military Partnership Board; where emerging challenges can be discussed and good practice shared.

2.4 **Mobility and Deployment**

- a) Ensure the Armed Forces community works closely with Council and private housing teams in support of their role of providing advice and support to households leaving the Armed Forces or being re-located within the UK.

2.5 **Housing**

- a) Maintain strong relationships with the Armed Forces community, to ensure timely and accurate information is given and received regarding movement of Service personnel and their housing needs and aspirations.
- b) Ensure that Council staff are mindful and remain aware of the particular issues faced by Service personnel and their families. This includes identifying best practice in solving the most challenging of circumstances where a service family or household is settling in our region from another part of the UK or where the housing need is the result of separation or divorce within a Service family.
- c) Raise awareness of housing issues and develop solutions and support systems to solve or prevent such issues, such as homelessness by Veterans.

2.6 Employment

a) As an employer, we recognise the value that serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to the Council as employees and we will uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- promoting the fact that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation;
- **Veterans:** supporting the employment of veterans; advertising vacancies with the Career Transition Partnership;
- **Service Spouses & Partners:** supporting the employment of Service spouses and partners; advertising vacancies with the military Families Federations; providing flexibility in granting leave before, during and after a partner's deployment;
- **Reserves:** supporting employees who are members of the Reserve Forces; granting special paid leave for Reserve Forces training and supporting deployment;
- **Cadet Organisations:** supporting employees who are volunteer leaders in military cadet organisations and supporting local cadet units.
- **National Events:** supporting Armed Forces Day, Reserves Day and Remembrance activities;
- **Armed Forces Charities:** supporting Armed Forces charities with fundraising, supporting staff who volunteer to assist.

2.7 **Communications.** The commitments made in this Covenant will be publicised so that local communities are aware of what is being done to deliver them.