



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:  
**GATESHEAD COUNCIL**

Signed on behalf of:  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Signed: 

Signed: 

Name: Martin Gannon

Name: Peter Winston Lt Col

Position: Leader

Position: CO 101 Regiment RA

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020

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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.

## Section 1: Principles Of The Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 We, Gateshead 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 Gateshead 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;*
- *Seeking to support the employment of veterans young and old and working with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP), in order to establish a tailored employment pathway for Service Leavers;*
- *Striving to support the employment of Service Spouses and partners;*
- *seeking to provide recognition, respect and show gratitude for military service through appropriate initiatives where these arise and honour the commitment and sacrifice of the armed forces community.*
- *working to raise the profile of the armed forces community in Gateshead as a group with a unique identity / set of needs / issues as well as increasing awareness of the range of support available to them.*
- *working proactively with relevant partner organisations in the statutory, voluntary and charitable sectors to identify our Armed Forces Community and its needs / implement the Armed Forces Covenant in our area focusing particularly on actions aimed at addressing local needs / preventing any disadvantage as a result of military service (for example through the provision of initiatives such as The Armed Forces Outreach Service which is staffed mainly by*

*ex-service leavers and provides direct assistance , support and signposting to other relevant organisations and covers housing, employment and training , financial management and healthcare).*

- *working proactively with other local authorities and relevant partner organisations across the NE region by sharing / promoting best practice initiatives which support positive outcomes for members of the armed forces community.*
- *supporting our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve forces, including by accommodating their training and deployment where possible;*
- *offering support to our local cadet units, either in our local community or in local schools, where possible;*

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 Service community and our customers on how we are doing.

- *At least once a year, the Gateshead Armed Forces Network will, on behalf of the signatories, review the measures that we are taking to implement the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant and consider of further actions would be helpful.*