



Gosport 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:
Gosport Borough Council

Signed on behalf of:
Ministry of Defence

Signed:

Signed:

Name: *Simon James Hargrave*

Name: *Captain J E VOYCE OBE RN*

Position: *Mayor of Gosport*

Position: *Commanding Officer
HMCS SULTAN*

Date: *17th June 2020*

Date: *17 JUNE 2020*



GOSPORT
Borough Council



Ministry
of Defence

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: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This Armed Forces Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Gosport and Gosport Borough Council

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

2.1 The Armed Forces Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. This Covenant encompasses the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

2.1 We Gosport Borough Council will endeavour in our dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which are:

- No member of the Armed Forces community should face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services.
- Special consideration is appropriate in some circumstances, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

2.3 We Gosport Borough Council will encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Gosport and will recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in Gosport.

2.4 For Gosport Borough Council and partner organisations, the Armed Forces Covenant presents an opportunity to work together to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community. Gosport Borough Council recognises and will continue to work with partners locally, regionally nationally.

2.5 For the Armed Forces community, the Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces community to help their local community.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

Aims of the Covenant

3.1 The Armed Forces Covenant defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community

3.2 It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces community and make it easier for Service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the MOD, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.

3.3 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and the Armed Forces community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

SECTION 4: Measures

4.1 As a forces- friendly organisation, Gosport Borough Council will:

- Ensure our staff are aware of the Armed Forces Covenant to better identify and serve members of the armed forces community
- Promote that we are a forces-friendly organisation
- Publish information about the Armed Forces Covenant and local resources
- Support observances and celebrations of the contributions of our armed forces community
- Work with our partners to better understand and address the needs of the armed forces community and signpost them to supports and services

4.2 As a forces –friendly employer, Gosport Borough Council will:

- Update and consult with members of our Staff Armed Forces Forum
- Advertise job vacancies with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) in the recruitment of service leavers and also on the Forces Families Jobs (FFJ) portal.
- Maintain our Right to Request Flexible Working Policy that specifically provides for requests due to deployment of a spouse/civil partner (regular or reserve forces).
- Maintain our paid additional leave provision for Reservist and Cadet Forces Adult Volunteer required training.
- Encourage and support staff considering the Reserve Forces and maintain links to local reserve units