



Hinckley & Bosworth 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:

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Signed:

Position: Director (Community Services)

Date: 20 January 2021



**Hinckley & Bosworth
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, **Hinckley & Bosworth 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

2.1 We recognise the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to businesses and to the country. We will aim to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by seeking to ensure the following:

- The Mayor attends many armed forces events during the course of the civic year in support of the local armed forces and the Royal British Legion and is pleased to play an active role at receptions to mark special occasions.
- The Council supports the national initiative to fly a flag for Armed Forces Day, with the Mayor hosting a short flag raising ceremony on Argents Mead alongside other civic dignitaries and members of the armed forces and the Royal British Legion.
- The Council coordinates arrangements for marking Remembrance Sunday in Hinckley, which involves the Mayor alongside other civic dignitaries leading a public act of remembrance in Argents Mead. The Mayor will also attend other remembrance services around the Borough during the day.
- Upon notification of injured military personnel recovering/resettling in Hinckley & Bosworth the Borough Council will ensure carers and individuals in need receive up-to-date information of services available. This will also include support for veterans living with PTSD and other mental health problems.
- The Council has included special qualifying provisions in recognition of government guidance in its revised Housing Allocations Policy to ensure that members of the armed forces are not disadvantaged by the requirement to have a local connection to qualify for inclusion on our Housing Register and therefore access to social housing.
- These provisions recognise the special position of members of the Armed Forces (and their families) whose employment requires them to be mobile and who are likely therefore to be particularly disadvantaged by local connection requirements; as well as those injured reservists who may need to move to another local authority district to access treatment, care or support.

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature, on staff notices, and on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community, our staff and our customers on how we are doing.