



## **West Yorkshire Combined Authority**

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**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:  
**West Yorkshire Combined Authority**

Signed: 

Position: West Yorkshire Mayor

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**West  
Yorkshire**  
Combined  
Authority

# 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 **West Yorkshire Combined Authority** 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 our business and to our country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- **Promoting the Armed Forces:** promoting the fact that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation.
- **Veterans:** seeking to support the employment of veterans with twelve months honourable discharge and exploring the use of the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) and JobCentre Plus as advertising media.
- **Service Spouses & Partners:** striving to support the employment of Service spouses and partners and sympathetically considering requests for annual leave for Service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner's deployment.
- **Reserves: supporting** our employees who are members of the Reserve Forces; granting additional leave for annual Reserve Forces training, through our volunteering policy.
- **Cadet Organisations:** supporting our employees who are volunteer leaders in military cadet organisations, granting additional leave to attend annual training camps and courses through our volunteering policy.
- **National Events:** Aiming to support Armed Forces Day, Reserves Day, the Poppy Appeal Day and Remembrance activities where possible.
- **Armed Forces Charities:** supporting Armed Forces charities with fund raising and supporting staff who volunteer to assist through our volunteering policy.

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.