



## Tonbridge & Malling 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:

**Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council**

Name: Matt Boughton

Name: Damian Roberts

Position: Leader of the Council

Position: Chief Executive

Date: 26/03/2026

Date: 26/03/2026



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# The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom

His 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 **Tonbridge & Malling 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 that 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, to our staff, customers, suppliers, contractors and wider public.
- **Recognition and Awareness:** Raise awareness of the Armed Forces community within our council services and the wider borough, ensuring staff are trained and understand their needs.
- **Actively promote the Armed Forces Covenant:** to local businesses, charities and the voluntary and community sector. Encourage them to sign up to show their support. We will work with partners to showcase good practice, share success stories and build a strong, borough wide network committed to supporting the Armed Forces community.
- **Fair Access to Housing:** ensure members of the Armed Forces community are not disadvantaged in accessing social housing, and that service-related needs are recognised in allocation policies.
- **Veterans:** supporting the employment of veterans, recognising military skills and qualifications in our recruitment and selection process;
- **Reserves:** supporting our employees who are members of the Reserve Forces; granting 18 days additional paid leave for annual Reserve Forces training; supporting any mobilisations and deployment.
- **Cadet Organisations:** supporting our employees who are volunteer leaders in military cadet organisations, granting additional leave to attend annual training camps and courses; supporting local military cadet units with community grant funding; recognising the benefits of employing cadets/ex-cadets within the workforce.
- **Supporting local Armed Forces Charities and organisations:** working with the Royal British Veterans Enterprise in Aylesford and the Army Reserve Centre Ditton, supporting and meeting the needs of Armed Forces Personnel, veterans and their families and their integration into local community life.
- **National Events:** supporting Armed Forces Day, Reserves Day, the Poppy Appeal Day and Remembrance activities;

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.