



Blaenau Gwent County 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:

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Signed:

Name: Councillor Derek Bevan
Position: Council's Armed Forces Champion
Date: 23/11/23



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 **Blaenau Gwent County 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 our business and to our country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- promoting the fact that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation, to our staff, customers, suppliers, contractors and wider public.
- the employment of veterans, recognising military skills and qualifications in our recruitment and selection process; working with the [Career Transition Partnership](#) (CTP) to support the employment of Service leavers;
- supporting the employment of Service spouses and partners
- seeking to support our employees who are members of the Reserve Forces; granting additional paid/unpaid leave for annual Reserve Forces training; supporting any mobilisations and deployment; actively encouraging members of staff to become Reservists; working with the [Defence Relationship Management](#) (DRM) to further Partner with Defence. Full time employees who are reservists will be given 15 days (111 hours'), pro rata for part time employees, extra paid leave to help them meet their commitments to the reserve forces;
- offering support to our local cadet units, either in our local community or in local schools, where possible. Actively supporting [RFCA Wales](#)
- supporting Armed Forces Day, Reserves Day, the Poppy Appeal Day and Remembrance activities
- supporting Armed Forces charities with fundraising and supporting staff who volunteer to assist through our volunteering scheme;
- continue to offer a Guaranteed Interview to for service leavers, veterans, reservists and spouses

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and/or on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them through a regularly monitored action plan and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are performing.