



## East Grinstead Town Council

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**We commit to uphold the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the contribution that Service personnel, both regular and reservist, veterans and military families make to our organisation, our community and to the country.**

Signed on behalf of:

**East Grinstead Town Council**

Signed: 

Name: *STEPHEN DOHERTY*

Position: *TOWN MAYOR*

Date: *13/05/2024*



East Grinstead Town Council

# **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, East Grinstead Town Council , will endeavour to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant:

- *Members of the Armed Forces Community should not face disadvantages arising from their service in the provision of public and commercial services.*
- *In some circumstances special provision may be justified, especially for those who have given the most, such as the injured or bereaved.*

## Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 We recognise the contribution that Service personnel, reservists, veterans, the cadet movement and military families make to our organisation, our community and to the country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant by:

- Promoting the Armed Forces:
  - East Grinstead Town Council will continue to support the current serving personnel by supporting the Armed Forces Day Committee with a grant towards their events
  - Publicise the Veterans Breakfast and other initiatives to support veterans in the town
  - Support the uniformed youth cadets through working together at our local and civic events
- Employment support to members of the Armed Forces Community:
  - Guarantee an interview for veterans for all town council posts (where the indicating box is checked)
- Health
  - Encourage our GP surgeries to accept new registrations from Veterans moving in to the town
- Housing:
  - Refer any veterans who need housing support to the appropriate Principal Council and assist them with accessing the right support.
- Education:
  - Refer any veterans who need support with registering children in local schools to the appropriate principal authority and assist them accessing the right support.

- Civic responsibilities:
  - Keep the two war memorials in good condition
  - Work with the war graves commission to allow access and to keep war graves in good repair
  - Organise the annual remembrance day parade in November (working with the RBL)

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and/or on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them.