



RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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:

Ribble Valley Borough Council

Signed: *Marshal Scott* *S.A.*

Name: MARSHAL SCOTT STEPHEN ATKINSON

Position: CHIEF EXECUTIVE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Date:



Ribble Valley
Borough Council
www.ribblevalley.gov.uk

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, Ribble Valley Borough 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:** Appointment of an Armed Forces Champion, the annual Flag raising Ceremony for Armed Forces week, hosting Freedom of the Borough Parades, working collaboratively with the Lancashire Armed Forces Hub.
- **Employment support to members of the Armed Forces Community:** Military skills and qualifications are recognised in our recruitment process where relevant; Additional leave paid/unpaid may be granted for annual Reserve Forces training; contact centre staff trained in matters relating to Armed Forces.
- **Communications, engagement and outreach:** working in partnership with Veterans in Community, supporting organisations bidding for grant monies.
- **Discounts:** MOD Defence card incorporated into SPACE leisure card for discounts to council leisure services; a military pension is discounted when considering claims for benefits.
- **Housing:** reasonable preference given to applicants who have served within the last five years. Being an ex-service person is taken into account when considering a Disabled Facility Grant.
- **Civic responsibilities:** hosting commemorations of anniversaries eg. WW1 / WW2; supporting Poppy Appeal Day and Remembrance activities.

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and on our website, along with a list of useful contacts for service charities and organisations that can offer support and advice to people who are ex-service or still serving, and their families.

