



**Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan
Tamworth Borough Council
April 2023 – March 2025**

The Armed Forces Covenant defines the general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community and has several key principles

- 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.

It also seeks to encourage local communities to develop a relationship with the service community in their area.

Tamworth Borough Council, alongside all local authorities within Staffordshire re-signed the Staffordshire Covenant to reaffirm our commitment to the Armed Forces Community following the Armed Forces Act 2021

Every Local Authority adhering to the Covenant is committed to produce and publish an Action Plan to underpin the Covenant. This forms part of the 'Core infrastructure for Covenant Delivery' which includes naming an Armed Forces Champion. This action plan sets out the overall direction of the Covenant and helps ensure the Council keeps on track with its commitments.

Armed Forces Action Plan

Aims	Actions	Comments/ Date for Next Review
<p>1. Recognise and remember the sacrifices and challenges faced by the Armed Forces community.</p>	<p>1.1 Remembrance and Recognition Days Promote participation in, and support events and functions, to celebrate and remember the sacrifices of Armed Forces personnel, both past and present. Armed Forces 'Remembrance and Recognition' days to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armed Forces day (June 21st 2023/June 29th 2024) • Poppy Appeal (October/November) • Remembrance Sunday (Nearest Sunday to 11th November) • Armistice day (November 11th) 	<p>Next review 2024</p> <p>Events in calendar</p> <p>Flags on Marmion House and the Castle</p>
	<p>1.2 Maintain Mercian Regiment Freedom of the Borough Promote and support Freedom of Borough events and parade</p>	<p>Ongoing and supported on request</p>
	<p>1.3 Consider Events for 80th Anniversary of VE Day May 2025</p> <p>1.4</p>	<p>Discussions and planning meetings to commence April 2024</p> <p>Link to national events</p>
<p>2. Promote understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community</p>	<p>2.1 Publicise the Commitments made in the Armed Forces Covenant Publicise Tamworth's commitment to Armed Forces personnel, and their families, receiving equal access and opportunity</p>	<p>Endorsement through Cabinet July 2023</p> <p>Link to County plan and pages</p> <p>New TBC web content to be developed by September 2023</p>
<p>3. Encourage the local community to support the Armed Forces community in the Borough</p>	<p>3.1 Community Volunteering Encourage collaborative community volunteering by signposting to charities and volunteering opportunities in the district.</p>	<p>To link back to County plan and through Staffordshire Connects. Webpage information</p>
<p>4. Encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life</p>	<p>4.1 Signpost Direct Armed Forces Community members to volunteering opportunities, additional support, services, sports clubs, charities</p>	<p>Link web pages to Support Staffs Voluntary Organisations and Staffordshire Connects</p>

	<p>4.2 Promote best practice engagement with communities Work with Staffordshire County/Armed Forces to identify and promote examples of good practice for community engagement and integration across Staffordshire</p>	Promote on social media platforms as examples occur/ Link to Staffordshire Armed Forces communications plan
<p>5. Encourage the Armed Forces Community to help and support the wider community, whether through participation in events and joint projects, or other forms of engagement, utilising funding obtained through the Community Covenant Grant scheme as appropriate</p>	<p>5.1 Volunteering and Community Action Support members of the Armed Forces Community to access volunteering and community action opportunities, especially for Forces personnel during transition</p>	Support Staffordshire engagement/VCSE promotion
	<p>5.2 Access to Council Services Support Armed Forces Personnel, and their families, as well as service leavers and veterans to access Tamworth Borough Council Services.</p>	To be directed via web page
<p>6. Provide advice, support and information to service personnel regarding their housing needs</p> <p>STATUTORY ARMED FORCES HOUSING DUTY</p>	<p>6.1 Housing Allocations Scheme Priority status is awarded to Armed Forces personnel that meet the criteria set out in the 2017 Housing Allocations Scheme.</p>	Policy is compliant
	<p>6.2 Support and Advice Promote the Veterans' Housing Advice Service. This service provides a pathway for ex-Service personnel in housing need by supporting them to move into a permanent home.</p>	<p>Link to the VHAS and other support organisations on our webpages</p> <p>Include links to Disabled Facilities Grants information</p>
	<p>6.3 Homelessness</p> <p>Armed Forces personnel are considered as per current legislation with the aim of understanding any concerns relating to service leavers at risk of homelessness within the Borough and possible solutions.</p>	Policy is compliant
<p>7. Maintain core infrastructure for Covenant delivery</p>	<p>7.1 Tamworth BC to be represented on Staffordshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board Armed Forces Champion to attend the working group</p>	Community Cohesion Officer to attend and action in conjunction with AD Partnerships

	7.2 Name an Armed Forces Champion and Armed Forces council officer lead	Armed Forces Champion: Councillor Andrew Cooper Armed Forces officer lead: Jo Sands, Assistant Director Partnerships
	7.3 Tamworth Borough Council Armed Forces Action Plan The Armed Forces Action Plan will be updated annually.	Progress to be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
8. Support the recruitment of members of the Armed Forces community	8.1 HR Policies Ensure due regard to Armed Forces Covenant	Annual Leave/Reservist Policies compliant and subject to regular review Community Impact Assessment for all policies to include reference to Covenant Duty
	8.2 Consider The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme The Scheme recognises employers who support defence and the armed forces community. www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-employer-recognition-scheme/defence-employer-recognition-scheme	TBC has Bronze status and to be reviewed for action plan and use of logo Sept 23
	8.3 Encourage Business Community to sign up to Covenant	Part of County plan and to be included in webpage links. Communications to be shared with Chamber of Commerce