

About the Council's Armed Forces Champion



The Council's current Armed Forces Champion is **Councillor Bob Cook**, the Leader of the Council. He took over the role in August 2017.

Councillor Cook is one of the Councillors representing the Norton South Ward. He was first elected as a councillor in 1987. In the past, he has served as Chair of the Leisure Services Committee and as Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport. He has been Leader of the Council since May 2011.

His main priority as the Armed Forces Champion is to ensure that the Council fulfils its commitments to support the local armed forces community – which includes veterans, serving military personnel, reservists, and their families – and to make sure that any obstacles to this are removed.

These commitments are summarised in a local [Armed Forces Community Covenant](#), which was originally signed in 2012 by the Council, some of its partners and local armed forces representatives. (The Covenant was reviewed and updated in November 2018).

Each Council in the Tees Valley has an Armed Forces Champion. They meet quarterly with representatives from the local armed forces community to monitor progress in achieving our covenant aims, and to share information, ideas and best practice.

The role of Armed Forces Champion also includes:

- encouraging residents, businesses, the public sector and voluntary / community organisations to actively and visibly show their support for the AF Community;
- raising the public's awareness and understanding of the issues affecting the armed forces community, and the support available to it;
- making sure that service in the armed forces is recognised, appreciated and valued;
- keeping up to date about current issues affecting the AF Community;
- staying informed about local activities, events and services supporting the AF Community;
- attending armed forces related events to represent the Council; and
- being the key contact between the Council and the AF Community in our borough;