



## **A Charter for the Confederation of British Service and ex-Service Organisations**

### **Introduction**

Without prejudice to the activities of individual member organisations COBSEO is established to represent, promote and further the interests of Service, ex-Service and entitled Merchant Navy men and women of all ranks, and of their widows, widowers, spouses and dependants by all practical, legal and proper means including:

- a. Exchanging and co-ordinating information between member organisations
- b. When necessary, acting as a point of contact for external agencies to the members of COBSEO.
- c. Identifying issues of common concern, particularly welfare matters, and co-ordinating any necessary and appropriate action
- d. Representing and supporting the needs and opinions of its member organisations, individually and collectively at Central and Local Government levels and with other agencies.

Membership of COBSEO shall be open to all those organisations whose primary or main purpose includes the desire to promote and further the welfare and general interests of Service and Veteran men and women and of their widows, widowers, spouses and dependants.

### **The Charter**

This Charter sets out the principles of cooperation and understanding which COBSEO member organisations will aim to observe in furtherance of the objectives of the Service and Veterans' community. The principles also provide criteria against which to judge new initiatives. However the spirit of the Charter recognises and respects the roles of individual member organisations in the pursuance of their own objectives

COBSEO member organisations will aim to:

- a. Work collaboratively to serve the broader community of Service Veterans personnel and their families and their particular beneficiaries within that community.
- b. Conduct their operations in the best interests of the Service and Veterans' Community.
- c. Conduct business in a transparent way, making the best use of resources and being accountable to beneficiaries and those who fund the organisation.
- d. Work bilaterally and collectively with other Service and civilian organisations and agencies to the greater benefit not only of their own beneficiaries, but of the Service and Veterans' community as a whole.
- e. Direct applicants for their assistance to the organisation best able to provide the greatest expertise to meet an applicant's concerns.
- f. Utilise their assets for the maximum obtainable benefit for the whole Service and Veterans' Community, but recognising that there may be limitations placed on the use of their funds by the objects of their organisation.
- g. Where appropriate, possible and advisable, keep the Chairman of COBSEO informed of any proposed major campaign and to discuss and consider both the possible effects of such a campaign upon fellow subscribers to the COBSEO charter and the possible effects of any proposed appeals by fellow subscribers upon their organisation.