

Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board – 25 January 2012

Future of Lyneham

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1 Q How many RAF personnel are left at RAF Lyneham, and when will the final RAF person leave the base?**
- A** Current RAF/dependant population is approximately 1,000, reducing to zero by December:
- Apr 2012 – No 1 Air Mobility Wing (approx 300 staff) moves to RAF Brize Norton.
- Sep 2012 – All remaining moves (C130J Hercules simulators, Tactical Medical Wing, 47 Air Despatch Squadron, Royal Logistics Corps) to RAF Brize Norton completed. All remaining services close down. Approx 100 staff remain, reducing to zero by Dec 2012.
- 31 Dec 2012 – RAF Lyneham closes; MOD retains site ownership.
- Defence Technical Training (DTT) is likely to establish a team of approximately 30 at Lyneham by October 2012
- 2 Q What is happening to the empty houses “outside the wire”?**
- A** Some of the Service Family Accommodation (SFA) may become temporarily surplus. The housing is owned by Annington Homes Ltd who will rent out the housing during that period, so it does not remain vacant. The MOD will continue to liaise with the local community over these changes. When DTT is fully established it is expected that all SFA will be required to serve the staff / student population.
- 3 Q What provisions are in place to support the families during the drawdown?**
- A** SFA and Army Welfare are supporting the needs of individual families. The Community Development Worker will leave at the end of Mar 2012 and there are no current plans to replace this post.
- 4 Q What is the future of the Youth Club (RAF facility)?**
- A** In September 2012 the Youth Club will close and the Airplay programme will cease. Future requirement for Youth Club is to be determined.
- 5 Q What support will be offered to maintain support groups and activities (e.g. parent and toddler groups provided by the RAF) ?**
- A** No RAF facilities will be available to support these groups from September 2012. The closure of some facilities may occur much earlier as a result of the reduced availability of RAF personnel to administer and support these facilities.

- 6 Q When will the RAF HIVE close?**
- A** The HIVE is currently scheduled to close when the RAF withdraws from Lyneham. The MOD is aware of the important role played by the HIVE and Community Centre. Discussions are underway to establish how services may be continued during the transition period between the RAF withdrawal and establishment of DTT at Lyneham.
- 7 Q What support is the business community getting to tide them over until the DTTC is fully up and running?**
- A** Talks continue with Chambers of Commerce and Wiltshire Council. Lyneham will be included in the new Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Wiltshire Council is opening an incubation centre at Wootton Bassett to support the creation of new business in the area later this year.
- 8 Q How many local jobs will there be for non-military personnel?**
- A** Services (as at other MOD sites) are contracted on a service (not employee) basis. Details of employment opportunities will not be known until these services have been specified and potential contractors' proposals received.
- 9 Q Will the local NHS medical provision cope with the additional families?**
- A** On-site medical support will be provided for military staff and students. NHS provision for others will be considered as part of the normal Planning Process.
- 10 Q Who is going to maintain those parts of the site which are outside the wire, e.g. clearing ditches in winter, tree cutting, grass cutting, etc?**
- A** MOD continues to own the site and will seek to maintain the same maintenance regime currently operated.. Responsibility for grass-cutting around SFA housing remains with Modern Housing Solutions (MHS).
- 11 Q Who is responsible for the security of the site?**
- A** Security at MOD sites is subject to continuous assessment. The site at Lyneham will be maintained in accordance with MOD policy, which will reflect the use and occupancy of the site. For obvious reasons of security, exact details of the composition of the security force will not be publicly released.
- 12 Q Who is responsible for security of the vacant housing?**
- A** Policing of the SFA estate is the responsibility of Wiltshire Police.
- During the transition period of 2012 RAF police will provide irregular patrols of the SFA estate for deterrent purposes.

- 13 Q With the departure of the MOD Community police presence, will the police house be retained, and will there be a replacement police officer?**
- A The incumbent MOD Community Constable is due to retire at the end of March 2012. At present there are no plans to replace him.
- 14 Q Who will look after the MOD / Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) (formerly Defence Estates) owned play areas?**
- A Play areas within the SFA 'patch' will continue to be maintained as part of the MHS contract.
- 15 Q What will happen to the civilian houses that rely on RAF Lyneham for water supplies?**
- A Where the lease documents state the MoD is obliged to provide this service to surrounding homes it will continue to do so.
- 16 Q What will happen to the memorials at RAF Lyneham?**
- A As owner of the site, MOD will retain responsibility for the memorials.
- 17 Q What is going to happen to the Crèche and Pre-School?**
- A The operation of the Bumble Bees Crèche and the Little Alberts Pre-School are self-financing albeit that they rely on MOD accommodation. The need for continued provision of the accommodation has been noted and is subject to further discussion.
- 18 Q How are the Primary and Secondary schools supposed to deal with the variable numbers of pupils? There is little warning when families arrive?**
- A Where information is known about bulk transfers of military personnel, MOD shares this information with the schools. DIO Housing does not currently have a mechanism for forewarning the individual pupil numbers when families arrive / leave ad hoc.
- 19 Q Is there going to be any flying back at Lyneham when the DTT is up and running?**
- A There is no DTT requirement for an operational airfield. It is expected that the runway will be re-developed for training purposes.
- 20 Q How many people are likely to be based at Lyneham DTT at any one time?**
- A Exact numbers have yet to be determined. It is currently anticipated that possibly 1,950 students & staff will be at Lyneham by 2015, rising to 4,300 when training is fully established. This does not include contractor staff involved in support to training / the establishment.
- 21 Q Will people based at the DTT be using much of the facilities outside of the wire (e.g. pubs, shops, restaurants)?**
- A The DTT site will have a significant permanent staff population and large, albeit changing, student population (with courses ranging from 1 week to a year. Students will not be 'confined to camp'. It is anticipated that the SFA will be fully occupied.

- 22 Q Is there likely to be much additional traffic generated by DTT?**
- A Traffic volumes will be subject to detailed assessment and discussion with Wiltshire Council Planning Department.
- 23 Q Is there likely to be much noise generated by DTT?**
- A Noise will be taken into account in site design. Noise Assessment is also a component of the formal Planning Process. However, the site will no longer be an operational airfield.
- 24 Q What is DTTCP?**
- A The Defence Technical Training Change Programme is a complex MOD change management programme whose aim is to modernise technical training for the Armed Forces to: reduce staff and trainee manpower costs and respond to Service and learner requirements; rationalise training estate to provide sufficient accommodation of the right quality in the most cost-effective way.
- 25 Q What does Defence Technical Training involve?**
- A DTT is the training of Army, RN and RAF Aeronautical Engineers, Electro-Mechanical Engineers and Communications & Information Systems specialists, from initial training throughout their careers. It ranges from trainee technician to postgraduate Chartered Engineer+ and covers Technical, Contextual & Military aspects. DTT is currently delivered at 9 sites.
- 26 Q When will training start at Lyneham?**
- A The move of DTT to Lyneham will be phased. It is anticipated that training will commence at Lyneham by 2015. It is anticipated that a Planning Application seeking to establish the principle of the use of the site for DTT will be submitted from early to mid 2013.
- 27 Q How will the local community be kept informed of developments?**
- A DTTCP will work with the Community Area Board as its prime focus for community liaison in addition to formal discussion with Wiltshire Council Planning Department. MOD will welcome support from both the Community Area Board and Planning Department when we come to planning consultation. DTTCP will make further details available as soon as the programme develops, both through MOD's website and through Wiltshire Council.