



MILITARY CIVILIAN INTEGRATION PARTNERSHIP UPDATE **(INCORPORATING WILTSHIRE'S COMMUNITY COVENANT PARTNERSHIP)**

Issue

The significant military presence in Wiltshire is changing again. The Government announcement on Transforming the British Army (known as Army 2020) and new Defence College of Technical Training at Lyneham combined with other military related developments will have far reaching implications for local communities for the foreseeable future.

[Wiltshire Council](#) working with [43 \(Wessex\) Brigade](#) and partners need to assess what this means in terms of infrastructure, impact on the economy and delivery of services. Therefore, the Military Civilian Integration (MCI) Partnership will continue to shape and positively influence MCI-related changes for the benefit of the civilian and military communities.

The work of the MCI Partnership is based upon what is known as the Army's Firm Base¹ policy and the Wiltshire Community Plan².

Aim

The aim of the MCI Partnership is to optimise the *economic* and *social* benefits of the military presence in the area. In turn, such integration will benefit Armed Forces personnel, their families, veterans, and local communities.

Objectives

The MCI Partnership has 7 main objectives:

- To identify and respond to the changing military 'footprint' in Wiltshire
- To maximise the economic contribution of the military to the county
- To enable the realignment of service provision by the Council and its partners to meet the changing needs of the military, their families and veterans
- To capitalise on opportunities for regeneration and building sustainable communities in line with the recently announced Army Basing Plan
- To ensure the county continues to remain an attractive location for our Armed Forces and long-term investment by the MoD
- To encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces through the Wiltshire Community Covenant
- To assist Service leavers, and redundees in particular, in career transition and into employment in the area, helping soldiers back into society

¹ The 'Firm Base' describes a secure environment, at home and overseas, that sustains the Army, enables training for, and deployment on, operations and ensures the consent and support of the public and host nations. Most of the activities required to support soldiers are linked – welfare and accommodation being good examples. The delivery of these services, therefore, requires working closely with the community (Source: MoD).

² People, places and promises, The Wiltshire Community Plan 2011-2026.

Partnership Activities and Outputs

Following major announcements by the MoD on [Army 2020](#), [Army Basing Plan](#), and [Defence College of Technical Training](#) and Wiltshire Council on [City Deal](#), [Porton Science Park development](#) and the [University Technical College](#), the MCI Partnership's key work streams are being reviewed. Also, the partnership is working with the [Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership](#) on some crucial areas of MCI-related work.

Main updates are:

1. Salisbury Plain Super Garrison/Army 2020 Implementation: The Salisbury Plain Super Garrison is the 'core' work stream in the partnership. The significance of Army 2020 and the Army Basing Plan, involving troops returning from Germany and around £800m investment by MoD over the next 5 years or so, is being assessed. It is anticipated that other Government departments will also be investing in infrastructure in the Salisbury Plain area.

2. Defence College of Technical Training: The public consultation on the Lyneham site development plans closes on 30th April. The construction phase of the new college is worth up to £230m and the winning contractor will be announced by the end of the year. Construction, subject to planning permission, is due to start in 2014 and the college will open in late 2015 with around 2,000 students and staff. The 'end state' at Lyneham will have around 5,500 students and staff on site by 2019.

3. Armed Forces Covenant/Military Civilian Community Integration: [Wiltshire's Armed Forces Community Covenant](#) was launched in August 2011. The aim of the Community Covenant, including the grant scheme, is to encourage local communities to support the Service community and nurture understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community. Wiltshire also adopted its [Armed Forces Veterans Charter and Action Plan](#) and is progressing a number of community integration initiatives.

4. Employment & Enterprise: This work stream is assisting Service leavers, including redundees, in career transition, and their spouses. It fits with Wiltshire's wider work on the Rural Growth Network, business start-up support and enterprise development. Four new enterprise centres are due to open this year.

5. Research: The evidence base for the partnership comes from:

- [Military Presence and Economic Significance in the South West Region](#) This report examined the military presence in the South West (March 2009)
- [Envisioning the Future](#) This report provided a comprehensive assessment of the military presence in Wiltshire (July 2009)

In October 2012 an updated [Military population in Wiltshire and the South West region](#) report was published. Our latest research is focusing on mapping of the veterans' community.

Partnership Organisation

The MCI Partnership Board provides strategic direction and guidance to the partnership and MCI Delivery Group in particular.

The Board comprises: The Leader Wiltshire Council, Commander 43 (Wessex) Brigade, Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Strategic Planning, Corporate Director, Service Director Economy & Regeneration, Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership representative, Community First/Plain Action, Defence Infrastructure Organisation, Defence Technical Training, Homes & Communities Agency, and project leads as necessary. The Board and Delivery Group meet about every 8-10 weeks.

Further Information

For further information, please contact: Ian Cambrook, MCI Manager, Pidela Consulting Ltd, at ian.cambrook@googlemail.com or go to the [MCI pages](#) on the Wiltshire Council website.

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