



## Introduction

Drivers Jonas Deloitte has been appointed by Wiltshire Council [on behalf of the Military Civilian Integration Programme (MCI)] to prepare a study to assess ways of enhancing the sustainability and integration of military and civilian communities, paying most attention to the towns and villages of Tidworth, Ludgershall, Larkhill and Bulford but also with regard to other areas such as Warminster.

The purpose of this short booklet is to provide some possible thoughts and ideas to help you complete the separate questionnaire. Obtaining your views on the issues facing local communities will form a valuable part of the study. This is also particularly important for Larkhill/ Bulford and Warminster where less information is currently recorded about integration and sustainability issues when compared to the Tidworth/ Ludgershall area.

## Question 1: The Pros and Cons of a Significant Military Presence

A survey of around 4,000 residents in Wiltshire was undertaken by the Council in 2008 to obtain views on a range of issues. The survey included a sample of respondents from the Amesbury and Tidworth Community Areas. For these areas, and for Wiltshire more widely, a number of benefits and problems associated with having a large military presence in the community were highlighted, as summarised below:

Positive Points	Negative Points
ü Jobs for local people	x Noise pollution
ü Contributes to the local economy	x Traffic congestion and road safety
ü Provides training opportunities	x Crime and anti-social behaviour
ü Supports local shops, services and businesses	x Access to the countryside
ü Enables shared community facilities	x Impact on house prices / housing affordability and availability
ü Contributes to local heritage	x School performance
ü Brings better sports facilities	x 'Turbulence' issues caused by Service Life

***It would be useful to know if these benefits and disadvantages are still relevant today and also, which ones are the most important to you and to the community within which you live?***



## Questions 2 and 3: Integrating Military and Civilian Communities

It is generally accepted that it is important to try and better integrate military and civilian communities and trying to achieve this is a key aim of the Military Civilian Integration Programme (MCI), which is made up of representatives from a range of Military, Council and other bodies and organisations with an interest in the area.

Recent changes in the way the military operate will also allow for integration to be easier to be achieved. This includes, for example, soldiers and their families now being based in the area for longer periods than has been the case in the past and also encouraged to stay in the area once their military service finishes, providing a greater opportunity for them to become a real part of the local community.

The following table sets out some of the main benefits of greater integration as well as some possible cons and difficulties to achieving this.

Positive Points	Negative Points and Constraints
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ü <b>A more joined up approach</b> – by working together there may be opportunities to pool resources and promote new military and other development in a more coordinated way. This could include the creation of further shared military and civilian community and other facilities where such facilities are not provided for at present.</li> <li>ü <b>More efficient delivery of services</b> – through better integration, one idea may be to provide ‘One Stop Shops’ in different communities bringing together military, Council and other services into one location.</li> <li>ü <b>A better understanding</b> (and acceptance) of different parts of the local community.</li> <li>ü <b>Ability to build on existing successes</b> where the military and civilian communities already integrate and work together such as the Tidworth Leisure Centre.</li> <li>ü <b>More opportunity to provide economic benefits</b> such as working together to ensure that local people have the skills needed by existing and future local employers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>x <b>Tensions</b> between certain civilian and military communities. Not everyone may want to live in a more integrated and mixed way.</li> <li>x <b>Security issues</b> which will limit the opportunity to share certain military facilities, particularly those located ‘behind the wire’.</li> <li>x <b>Social and Military operational issues</b> which, for example, may limit the ability / desirability to create fully mixed military and non-military housing areas.</li> <li>x <b>Integration may be more difficult in certain areas.</b> For example, integrating communities and sharing of facilities in Tidworth is likely to be easier than in Bulford, where there is a greater physical separation between military and non-military communities.</li> </ul>



***It would be useful to know if you agree with the above and / or if you think there are other pros and cons (and difficulties) to greater military and civilian integration in the community where you live?***

### Question 4: Ways of Encouraging Military and Civilian Integration

The 2008 Survey mentioned earlier also sought views on the best ways in which military and civilian communities can mix and obtain a greater understanding of each other. The following table summarises the results for Wiltshire as a whole, and also for the Community Areas of Tidworth and Amesbury.

Ways of Encouraging Military and Civilian Integration	Importance Ranking			
	(1 = most important, 9 = least important)			
	Wiltshire	Amesbury CA	Tidworth CA	Warminster CA
Military open days	1	2	1	1
Using same community centre, leisure and sports facilities	2	1	2	2
Using same shops, post office and restaurants	3	3	4	3
Sharing education facilities	4	5	7	4
Shared hobbies, sports clubs and sport events	5	6	5	6
Fetes, festivals and fairs	6	4	3	5
Sharing toddler groups and crèches	7	8	9	7
Socialising in local pubs and clubs	8	7	8	8
Shared information and advice	9	9	5	9

***Do you agree with the above? Are there any other ways through which integration could be further promoted in your community area?***

***In relation to shared facilities, this has been particularly successful with the Tidworth Leisure Centre. There are also proposals for a new Garrison Theatre in Tidworth which will also be available for wider community use. Such shared facilities are however not as widely available in other locations. What additional shared community and other (e.g. leisure) facilities would you like to see where you live?***



### Question 5: Future Actions, Initiatives and Projects

An important part of the study is to identify possible future projects and other actions and ideas to improve integration and also the sustainability of communities. We are therefore interested in your views on what you would like to see done to improve the sustainability of the communities where you live. **The following table includes some ideas and issues you may wish to consider when responding to this question.**

Sustainability 'Theme'	Issues / Ideas
<b>Community</b>	§ Would you like to see the community where you live grow (i.e. more housing) if this was the best way to safeguard and improve existing facilities, create more local job opportunities etc?
<b>Transport and Connectivity</b>	§ What should be done to better encourage walking, cycling and public transport as alternatives to using a car (for example, improved / new footpaths and cycle links and, better / cheaper bus services)?
<b>Business and Economy</b>	§ What should be done to improve opportunities to access job opportunities locally (for example, better training and education and, encouraging more non-military employers to the area)?
<b>Environmental Issues</b>	§ What should be done to reduce the environmental impact of your community (for example, encouraging / providing renewal energy projects and waste recycling facilities)?
<b>Being Heard</b>	§ Does anything need to be done to make sure that your views, and those of the community where you live, are better taken into account when making important decisions about your area? If this is an issue for you, how could it be better ensured that local views are listened to?

### What Happens Next?

We will now consider all comments made to the questionnaire, as well as other points made as part of consultation being undertaken with the Council, the Military and other local groups and organisations.

Once all responses have been examined, we will then be able to identify the key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and constraints of the communities being assessed in terms of levels of sustainability and integration.

This information will then be used to help inform different possible options (ways) of improving the situation. Once possible options have been identified, we will consult again to obtain views on which ones should be considered further.