

## Wiltshire Council

### Cabinet

24 September 2013

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**Subject:** Military Civilian Integration Update Report

**Cabinet Member:** Cllr Jane Scott  
Leader of the Council

**Key Decision:** No

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#### Executive Summary

This report provides Cabinet with an update of the Military Civilian Integration (MCI) Partnership's work and seeks Cabinet's continued support for the partnership and its programme of work. This is a periodic update report, the last having been made to Cabinet in May 2011. A number of government announcements and significant progress on particular MOD projects now warrant a further update to Cabinet.

This report highlights key aspects of the ongoing work and explains how Wiltshire Council is working together with MOD (particularly 43 Wessex Brigade, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and Defence Technical Training (DTT)) and partners in bringing forward the Partnership's workstreams. The aims of the MCI Partnership, which is a key element in the Council's business plan and this report demonstrates how, through the partnership, the goals of the MCI Partnership are being brought forward.

#### Proposals

That Cabinet:

- (i) Confirms its support for the MCI Programme, and endorses the approach being taken to delivering the Army Rebasing Workstream.
- (ii) Notes the progress of the:
  - (a) Wiltshire's Armed Forces Community Covenant (agreed in August 2011) and our success in drawing down over £585,000 of grant funding to support local integration projects
  - (b) Personnel Recovery and Assessment Centre at Tedworth House, Tidworth, which officially opened on 20 May
  - (c) Development of a Defence Technical Training College at the former RAF Lyneham site

## **Reason for Proposal**

The Military has a significant presence in Wiltshire, and the nature of this presence will change dramatically over the coming years. It is important that the Council recognises the impacts that the Regular Army Basing Plan will bring to Wiltshire, both in terms of the opportunities that this will offer in terms of growth and diversity, and the preparations that the Council will need to make to ensure that the needs of everyone in Wiltshire are met. Cabinet is invited to recognise the achievements that have already been made with the support of the MCI Partnership, such as the progress on a Defence Technical Training College at the former RAF Lyneham Site, the opening of Tedworth House, and the Community Covenant, while acknowledging that there will be difficult challenges ahead, whose successful resolution will require the support of the Council working closely with 43 Wessex Brigade and partners.

**Carolyn Godfrey**  
**Corporate Director**

## **Wiltshire Council**

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### **Purpose of Report**

1. This report is presented to Cabinet for information and to seek Cabinet's continued support for the Military Civilian Integration (MCI) Partnership and its programme of work. It demonstrates how this programme will continue with existing initiatives to improve the integration of military personnel and their families into the communities of Wiltshire, and how it will respond to the opportunities and challenges brought by the Army Rebasing Programme.
2. The report also updates Cabinet on the important milestones that have been reached through partnership working and the support of the MCI Partnership since the last update report to Cabinet made in May 2011. Key achievements have included Wiltshire's Armed Forces Community Covenant, the progress made on the delivery of a Defence Technical Training College at the former RAF Lyneham site and the official opening of Tedworth House Personnel and Recovery Centre in May 2013.

### **Background**

3. The May 2011 report on the MCI Programme updated on its progress since its establishment in 2007, including aspects of:
  - The development of the Salisbury Plain Super Garrison.
  - The change of use of RAF Lyneham.
  - Other military changes that would have consequences for local communities across Wiltshire.
4. Since that time:
  - Wiltshire's Armed Forces Community Covenant was launched in August 2011. Wiltshire was one of the first local authorities to agree a local Covenant and our practice in this area has been recognised nationally. The aim of the Community Covenant, including the grant scheme, is to encourage integration between local civilian and Armed Forces communities, to support the Service community, and nurture understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community. 22 projects, delivered by local groups and charities, have been awarded a total of £589,049 funding since September 2011.

- Wiltshire also adopted its Armed Forces Veterans Charter and Action Plan, which confirms support from the broader community and the wide range of organisations delivering services across all sectors to Service Veterans and their families. Wiltshire Council has co-hosted, with Help for Heroes, two Veterans' conferences (January 2012 and March 2013). The conferences enabled over 70 delegates from a range of organisations to come together to agree priorities for the Action Plan.
- The MCI Programme currently includes research on the Military population in Wiltshire and the South West region, which focuses on mapping the veteran community and is due for publication by the end of this year.
- A number of other community integration initiatives have been launched and are ongoing.

5. More recent key developments have been:

- The government announced the Regular Army Basing Plan on 5 March 2013, signalling dramatic changes to the significant military presence in Wiltshire.
- The Personnel Recovery and Assessment Centre at Tedworth House, Tidworth was officially opened by Princes William and Harry on 20 May 2013. Tedworth House is the 'flagship' centre of Defence Recovery Capability, a partnership between Help for Heroes, the Royal British Legion and the Ministry of Defence to provide a clear long-term care pathway for the wounded.
- The Ministry of Defence has submitted a Planning Application to develop a Defence Technical Training College at the RAF Lyneham, which at the time of writing this report the Council was consulting on with a target date for decision of 3 September 2013.

6. The Council, working with DIO, 43 (Wessex) Brigade and partners, is now assessing the impact that the Regular Army Basing Plan will have on Wiltshire. The MCI Partnership will work towards identifying opportunities for growth such that the relocation of personnel will also bring benefits for existing Wiltshire communities. It will also work to ensure that the appropriate provision of services is maintained, and that any necessary changes in infrastructure can be made.

7. The work of MCI Partnership is aligned to initiatives supporting integration that will positively influence Wiltshire's economy, including:

- The Enterprise Network, which supports the employment and enterprise aspirations of service leavers and military spouses alongside the wider population. The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP), which is currently negotiating with government a City Deal initiative, the key element being to unlock the economic potential of the military presence in the SWLEP geography and the skills of service leavers to support business growth.

- The development of Porton Science Park, including a new incubation centre by 2015, which with funding from the Regional Growth Fund will deliver 2,000 jobs in the life sciences sector over the next ten years. The project is supported by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), and Public Health England Porton (formerly the Health Protection Agency), and is in the context of the growing importance of the defence technology sector in the county.
  - The development of a South Wiltshire University Technical College, specialising in Science and Engineering in the context of the Defence Industries for 600 14-18 year olds, based in Salisbury. As well as providing schooling opportunities for relocated service families, the University Technical College will also utilise the skills of local employers, including 43 Wessex Brigade, to provide teaching for students.
8. By close engagement in the development of the above programmes and projects, in addition to undertaking its own core programme of work, the MCI Partnership continues to positively influence a number of initiatives and developments which will benefit both our civilian and military communities.

## **Main Considerations for the Council**

### Member and Officer Support

9. The MCI Partnership is led by its Board whose role is to provide strategic direction and guidance. The Partnership Board is chaired by the Leader of Wiltshire Council and the following representatives sit on the Board:
- Commander 43 (Wessex) Brigade
  - Cabinet Member for Economy, Skills and Transport, Wiltshire Council
  - Corporate Director, Wiltshire Council
  - Service Director for Economy and Regeneration, Wiltshire Council
  - Defence Infrastructure Organisation
  - Defence Technical Training
  - Homes and Communities Agency
  - Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership
  - Community First (representing the voluntary sector)
10. Supporting the Partnership Board is a Delivery Group, to ensure the effective delivery of projects is taken forward. The Delivery Group is composed of senior officers from partner organisations.
11. The MCI Delivery Group has appointed a lead officer for each of on the following workstreams:
- Army Rebasing
  - Defence College of Technical Training
  - Armed Forces Covenant / Community Integration
  - Employment and Enterprise
  - City Deal 2 (tbc)

- Porton Science Park (tbc)
- University Technical College (tbc)
- Troops to Teachers (tbc)

12. Progress on many of these workstreams has been touched on in the background section above. The following paragraphs focus on core work streams of the partnership.

#### Army Rebasing

13. Army Rebasing, is the core work stream in the partnership. It responds to the Army Basing Plan which will relocate an additional 4,000 troops to Wiltshire by 2020. The significance of this move, alongside military redundancies, and increased reliance on reserves, are all expected to have an impact on Wiltshire's economy. It is anticipated that there will be around £850 million investment by MOD and other government departments by 2020 in the Salisbury Plain area. New requirements in terms of housing, schooling, health and social care, as well as the impact on Wiltshire's communities are being assessed, based upon data provided by the MOD. An Army Rebasing Steering Group has been set up, which includes representatives from Wiltshire Council, 43 (Wessex) Brigade and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) to lead this work. Alongside this, a Local Stakeholder Group is being set up to provide communities with information and a chance to influence MOD development proposals, using a similar model as the one that was implemented for the Defence College of Technical Training at Lyneham, as described below.

#### Defence College of Technical Training, Lyneham

14. The new Defence College of Technical Training at Lyneham is planned to open in late 2015, with around 2,000 students and staff. The £230 million construction phase is due to commence in December 2013. The 'end state' will see around 5,500 students and staff on site by 2019. A planning application was submitted by the Secretary of State for Defence on 28 May 2013 and, at the time of writing, the target date for a decision was 3 September 2013. The Lyneham Steering Group, set up to involve local communities in the development proposals and inform them about progress, has been regarded as a model of best practice.

#### Communications Plan

15. The MCI Partnership and Army Rebasing Steering Group are fully supported by senior communications officers at Wiltshire Council and the DIO working together to ensure consistency of messaging.

### **Safeguarding Considerations**

16. The Army 2020 Rebasing, with 4,000 troops relocating to Wiltshire, will increase the need for robust safeguarding measures. Discussion with the MOD is underway to define expected requirements, including impacts on service provision. Senior officers involved in safeguarding sit on the MCI Partnership Board and Delivery Group and safeguarding will be an integral part of the MCI Partnership's ongoing work.

## **Public Health Implications**

17. The increase in troop numbers and their families will have significant implications for the provision of health care services and wider health and wellbeing considerations. Wiltshire Public Health, Wiltshire's Clinical Commissioning Group, the NHS England Area Team, and Army Primary Health Care have therefore set up a group to address health care commissioning needs. Additionally, a Health Impact Assessment is being undertaken by the Council.

## **Environmental and Climate Change Considerations**

18. Environmental Impact Assessments are undertaken as part of planning for the infrastructure projects to ensure measures are in place to mitigate any negative impacts associated with the projects.

## **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

19. The MCI Programme aims to enable the realignment of service provision to meet the changing needs of the military, their families and veterans. All strands of work and projects are contributing to improving quality of life and opportunities for military families, serving personnel and veterans. In addition, measures will be taken to ensure that this does not adversely affect existing Wiltshire communities.

## **Risk Assessment**

20. No specific risks have been identified with the proposal to support the MCI Partnership.
21. With regard to the partnership's programme of work, each workstream applies risk management principles to manage risk. These are in line with the Council's risk management strategy.

## **Financial Implications**

22. The Army Rebasing Programme is expected to bring in £850 million of infrastructure investment into the local economy. Work is ongoing with DIO to determine the costs of this programme and the requirement for new infrastructure and services.
23. There will be additional costs associated with the additional services required by the Army Rebasing Programme. It is not possible at this stage to define these costs more clearly, and as such whilst it is hoped the costs will be mitigated by increased revenue from, education grants, council tax, NNDR, payment for discretionary services and other contributions this will need to be closely monitored. The Council is currently incurring costs which are being funded from within existing resources. This too will need to be monitored and bidding for Military Covenant funding recently announced as part of the 2014/15 Spending Round announcements.

## **Legal Implications**

24. There are no specific legal implications in supporting the MCI Partnership and its programme of work. The legal implications of individual projects are considered as part of the project initiation process. Lead officers within the MCI Delivery Group will consult Legal Services on an ongoing basis in relation to individual projects within each workstream, to ensure that they are structured to comply with relevant legislation and government guidance, including state aid and procurement rules.
25. Under the Armed Forces Covenant the Council has a duty to support services for military and defence personnel and their families. By supporting the MCI Partnership the Council will be helping to ensure that military families are not disadvantaged and in building resilient relationships between military and civilian communities.

## **Options Considered**

26. The Council has a duty to provide appropriate services to people living and working in Wiltshire, including military and defence personnel, leavers and their families. In the absence of any alternative organisation or mechanism in place to ensure that the changes in the military footprint in Wiltshire over the following years are met with preparedness and initiatives to provide effective services (education, health, infrastructure, and so on), the option of discontinuing the MCI Programme should be dismissed.

## **Conclusions**

27. Since its establishment in 2007 the MCI Partnership and its programme of work has seen the success of a number of initiatives which have significantly benefited not only the military community comprising of military personnel, leavers and their families, but also of the civilian community whose lives are in many ways connected with Wiltshire's strong military heritage. This success is due to the strength of the partnership in working together to develop new initiatives and face the new challenges brought about by the Regular Army Basing Plan. By continuing to support the MCI Partnership, Wiltshire Council will benefit from the cross cutting and co-operative approach the MCI Delivery Group embodies, so that the opportunity to unlock the economic potential of the military and provide better services to Wiltshire's communities will be enhanced.

**Carolyn Godfrey**  
**Corporate Director**

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## **Background Papers:**

*Community Covenant: An Armed Forces Community Covenant between Wiltshire Council, Representatives of the Charitable and Voluntary Sectors, the Civilian Community of Wiltshire and the Armed Forces Community in Wiltshire*, <[wiltshire.gov.uk/wilts-armed-forces-community-covenant.pdf](http://wiltshire.gov.uk/wilts-armed-forces-community-covenant.pdf)>, retrieved 9 August 2013

*Wiltshire's Armed Forces Veterans' Charter*, <[wiltshire.gov.uk/military-veterans-charter.pdf](http://wiltshire.gov.uk/military-veterans-charter.pdf)>, retrieved 9 August 2013

*Military Population in Wiltshire and the South West Region*, October 2012, <<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mci-military-population-wiltshire-oct-2012-sw-region.pdf>>, retrieved 9 August 2013

## **Appendices**

None