

Army Basing Briefing for Amesbury, Pewsey, Salisbury, Tidworth and Warminster Area Boards - May 2014

Background

In March 2013, the government announced its Regular Army rebasing plans. These will see approximately 4,300 extra troops moving to Wiltshire. The troops relocating to Wiltshire will be accompanied by their families, bringing the total number of additional personnel to 7,700. These plans will require additional levels of services and provision of appropriate levels of infrastructure especially in relation to army housing, education provision, leisure facilities, transport and health facilities.

May 2014 Update

- The public consultation run by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) ended on April 1. All responses and comments received from stakeholders are being reviewed by DIO and will be taken into consideration in developing the master plan. DIO welcomed the level of interest that has been shown during this consultation and was grateful for all of the comments received.
- Wiltshire Council's response was made taking into account the views and preferences of local members, to ensure community views were reflected, in addition to comments from its various specialist and planning officers. It was keen to ensure that DIO were fully aware of how the plans would affect services and issues such as education, transport, health facilities, sustainability of local settlements, the integration of military and civilian communities, preservation of the environment (including heritage assets) and the opportunity to facilitate economic growth for the area. It also underlined that central government funding would be required to provide additional community facilities if the planning applications were to be approved.
- There have been media reports which raised concerns about development potentially having an impact on views from Stonehenge. It is important to note that there are no proposals to build anywhere that could affect the views of the sunrise from this World Heritage Site.
- The DIO is continuing to carry out studies including transport, infrastructure and ecological assessments. It should have all the information available to complete the master plan in late May. Development options will be narrowed down to specific sites for housing and facilities within its bases. The master plan will be available for the public to consider the refined development proposals and submit comments to DIO. This is planned to run between late May and late June 2014, before being presented to Wiltshire Council's Strategic Planning Committee for consideration in July 2014. It will be accompanied by a Final Statement of Community Involvement which will provide a summary of the representations received, DIO's response to the representations and how the emerging master plan has been able to be amended as a result.
- Prior to DIO producing its master plan it is currently briefing key stakeholders of the changes it intends to make following the public consultation exercise. Such stakeholders include Wiltshire, Hampshire County and Test Valley Borough Council members; town and parish councils; the statutory authorities and Wiltshire Council planning and specialist officers. In addition, a further public meeting will be held in Tidworth on May 28 to outline the latest proposals. More details of the meeting will be available shortly.

- Planning applications are anticipated from September 2014 onwards, with the main construction programme commencing in 2016.
- Wiltshire Council continues to assess the level of services required including school provision, health, leisure, highways, waste and transport services.