

## **Army Basing Briefing for the Amesbury, Pewsey, Tidworth and Warminster Area Boards - Updated 11 November 2015**

### **Background**

*The government's Army Basing announcement in March 2013 advised of around 4,300 extra Service personnel moving to Wiltshire by the end of the decade. They will be accompanied by their families, bringing the total number of additional people estimated to be moving to the area to 7,600. These plans will require additional levels of infrastructure and services to be provided by Wiltshire Council.*

### **November 2015 Update**

#### Army Basing Press Release 5 November 2015

The MOD issued a press release which is replicated at the foot of this briefing. It affirms that the final unit relocations from Germany (to Wiltshire) will be implemented by 2019. It has been issued ahead of the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review to provide certainty to Army and civilian personnel, and their families, allowing them to plan for the future.

Wiltshire Council has been planning to ensure all the facilities that it is required to provide to support the programme (*for example schools*) would be in place in the event of the MOD seeking to bring forward the relocation of Service personnel. As the MOD has confirmed that the final moves will take place in 2019, Wiltshire Council is re-evaluating precisely how these programmes will be taken forward.

It will be noted that the return date for 5 Rifles remains as the summer of 2016. Accordingly the planned expansion of schools (St Leonard's and Kiwi) required to cater for 5 Rifles' relocation and other places needed for increases in population not attributed to Army Basing is progressing. Further detail follows.

#### Schools

Wiltshire Council is continuing with plans to prepare the infrastructure and provision required to welcome the Service personnel and their families to Wiltshire. This includes progressing school infrastructure to ensure there will be sufficient and suitable new school places available for all incoming families. In this regard, planning permission for St Leonards Primary (Bulford) was obtained on 29 September and planning permission for Kiwi Primary is expected shortly. Contracts are being negotiated for these projects to allow the first additional places to be available by Easter 2016. Some of these places are required for the increasing population not attributed to the Army Basing Programme.

Planning for the transfer of St Michael's Figheldean Primary to Larkhill continues, as does provisional planning for the additional secondary places and Ludgershall needs, though the timing of build completion is being evaluated in light of the MOD announcement.

#### Planning Applications and Associated Matters

- Priority Works

All priority works applications covering relatively small scale development within the camps have been submitted and determined under delegated powers.

- Camps

The application for the main development works at Perham Down has been determined. Those for Bulford, Tidworth and Larkhill have been received and DIO is working closely with Wiltshire Council and other statutory authorities to ensure the requirements of the River Avon Nutrient Management Plan and the Salisbury Plain Water Management Strategy are met. Discussions are ongoing regarding the Upavon Main Works planning application, which is expected to be submitted in 2016.

- Service Family Accommodation (SFA)

All three SFA applications have been submitted. Details are as follows:

Settlement	PA Reference	Units	Notes
Ludgershall	15/02770/FUL	246	Consultation ended 5 June 2015
Bulford	15/04006/FUL	227	Consultation ended 18 June 2015
Larkhill	15/05540/FUL	444	Consultation ended 23 July, 2015

- Planning obligations (Section 106 Agreement)

The SFA applications are due to be considered at a Strategic Planning Committee, which will be arranged as soon as the negotiations on MOD contributions towards infrastructure to support the Army Basing Programme have concluded and are reflected in the draft s106 agreement.

#### Community Infrastructure

Under the proposed planning obligations, Ludgershall Town Council has agreed in principle to accept from the MOD an office building at Corunna Barracks, which lies within the site of 0.6 hectares being offered for community use to create a new community centre. This is in addition to the land DIO is offering (0.3 hectares) at Larkhill. A local Steering Group (SG) comprising the town council, Wiltshire Council, MOD representation and other local community groups is being formed to take forward planning of this facility. The first meeting of the SG is to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Wiltshire Council has agreed to provide modest funding to adapt the building to meet the needs of its future use. It is hoped to have the facility available when the first families move to the Ludgershall SFA site. The group is seeking grant funding to support the facility.

#### Integration Matters

Wiltshire Council and the Army understand the importance of successful integration of the military and civilian populations in order to fulfil the aim of creating sustainable, resilient and balanced communities. As the arrival of Army units draws nearer, Wiltshire Council is seeking to engage with the Service personnel and their families in Germany. A visit of council officers to Germany took place in July this year. On 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015, six wives from 5 Rifles visited Wiltshire to see for themselves what the area was like. During this visit they received a briefing from Wiltshire Council on education, employment and other matters. Further liaison with incoming units will continue.

## Wiltshire Council Review

The Local Government Association has agreed to carry out a Peer Challenge Review of Wiltshire Council's management of the Army Basing Programme. This has now been scheduled for April 2016 and it is planned for a Wiltshire councillor from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be appointed as one of the review team members. The review will assess how Wiltshire Council has managed the programme to date, its readiness to proceed with later phases and will draw out lessons learned that can be applied to other projects.

## PRESS RELEASE

### FINAL ARMY MOVES FROM GERMANY SET FOR 2019

THE Ministry of Defence has today (5 November) confirmed that the final Field Army units will return from Germany in 2019. The final units, including those from 20 Armoured Infantry Brigade, currently based around Paderborn and Sennelager in Germany, will return to their new home on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire in the final phase of the Army Basing Programme.

In line with commitments made in the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review, the Army Basing Programme has already successfully relocated around 74% of personnel from Germany since 2010, with over 5,000 Service personnel, plus their families, having returned to the UK this summer. All of the Unit moves planned for 2016 and 2017 will go ahead as planned.

The timing of the move has been confirmed ahead of the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review to provide certainty to Army and civilian personnel, and their families, allowing them to plan for the future.

**Major General Alastair Dickinson CBE, Director of Army Basing and Infrastructure said:**

**“By confirming the timetable to bring the final units back from Germany to their new home on Salisbury Plain in 2019, we are providing our Service personnel and their families with greater certainty to allow them to plan for their futures. It also allows us to finalise our plans with Wiltshire Council and industry partners who will deliver the supporting infrastructure in the UK.**

**“In Germany we will continue to deliver the high quality of services and facilities that our personnel and their families need so they are well supported until they move.**

**“This is a significant milestone in delivering the Army’s structure as set out in the last SDSR.”**

While fewer personnel will remain in Germany after 2019, Germany will remain one of our most valued NATO and European partners, and we will continue to intensify and deepen our security and defence relationship with them.

Both the Army and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) will continue to work with Wiltshire Council, local and industry partners, to make sure that the accommodation, infrastructure and services needed by our Service personnel and their families are in place. In Germany, work will continue with the Federal Authorities to hand-back the German estate.

**Colin Wood MBE, Defence Infrastructure Organisation Chief Operating Officer said:**

**“Our priority is to provide a better estate for our Armed Forces and this will allow us to finalise our plans for brand new living and working accommodation for troops and their families.**

**“The MOD is investing more than £800 million in infrastructure in and around the Salisbury Plain area. This will boost the local economy and provide some 1,000 brand new homes for Service families, thousands of new bed spaces for single soldiers and the construction, conversion or refurbishment of more than 250 other buildings such as**

**offices, garages, workshops and Mess facilities.”**

**Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE, Leader of Wiltshire Council said:**

**“Since the Army Basing Programme was first announced, we have been working closely with the Army, the DIO and partner organisations to ensure the necessary community infrastructure including improvements to schools, roads and leisure is in place. The confirmation of when Service personnel will arrive provides a clear timetable to put in place these plans which we have been sharing with local communities.**

**“We look forward to welcoming service personnel and their families and, as well as providing the infrastructure needed, we will also do all we can to help them to be part of the local community as they make their home in Wiltshire.”**

**ENDS**

**(Briefed previously - but repeated for reference if required)**

**Location and Number of Net Additional Personnel Arising from Army Basing**

Location	SLA Pop	SFA Population			Total
		Military	Spouses	Children	
Larkhill	1,513	540	540	982	3,575
Bulford	494	241	241	427	1,403
Tidworth and Ludgershall	836	400	400	725	2,361
Upavon	254	0	0	0	254
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,097</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>2,134</b>	<b>7,593</b>

**SFA to be provided:**

Location	SFA units	Notes
Larkhill	444	
Bulford	227	This includes 36 units that will replace existing SFA, so the net new requirement is 191 for the Army Basing Programme.
Ludgershall	246	
Tidworth	0	The MOD is acquiring 100 units from a commercial development in Tidworth - (Riverbourne Fields to meet the Army Basing Programme requirements).
Upavon	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>917</b>	Taking into account the above two notes , the net Army Basing requirement is for <b>981</b> SFA homes.