

Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board – Wednesday 6 July 2011

Chairman's Announcements

Military Civilian Integration Programme Update

Issue

The significant military presence in Wiltshire is changing. The development of Britain's first 'Super Garrison' in the Salisbury Plain area, closure of RAF Lyneham, and a number of other planned military changes will have far reaching implications for local communities across the county for the foreseeable future.

Although there is an awareness of these changes¹ taking place in the Defence Community, Wiltshire Council working with HQ 43 (Wessex) Brigade and partners needs to quantify what this means in terms of infrastructure, impact on the economy and delivery of services. Therefore, the Military Civilian Integration (MCI) Programme was set up to shape and positively influence these changes, where possible.

Programme Aim

The aim of the MCI Programme is to optimise the *economic* and *social* benefits of the military presence in the county. The programme has 5 main objectives:

- To identify the changing military 'footprint' in the county
- To quantify the economic contribution of the military to the county and the South West
- To enable the realignment of service provision to meet the changing needs of the military, their families (known as dependants) and veterans
- To spot opportunities for regeneration and building sustainable communities in the Salisbury Plain area
- To ensure the county continues to remain an attractive location for long-term investment by the MoD

Key Facts

- Currently, around 15,000 military personnel and an estimated 16,000 dependants are based in Wiltshire
- The military is the biggest employer in Wiltshire
- Many more jobs are 'Defence dependent'
- The spending power of military personnel is worth over £400m per year
- The development of the Salisbury Plain Super Garrison and other military sites will attract multi-million pound investment into the county
- The RAF will withdraw from Lyneham by 2012
- Military changes are most likely to impact on communities in Amesbury, Bulford, Calne, Chippenham, Corsham, Salisbury, Tidworth, Warminster, Wilton, and Wootton Bassett
- Around 1,000 young people are members of the cadet forces in Wiltshire

- MoD makes a significant contribution towards conservation and environmental protection in Wiltshire
- Military civilian integration has been adopted as one of the underlying themes of the Plain Action rural development programme

Programme Outputs

1. Salisbury Plain Super Garrison: The Salisbury Plain Super Garrison is the 'core' project within the programme and focuses on the plans for the future MoD use of the Salisbury Plain Training Area. There will be significant investment in infrastructure and increases in the numbers of soldiers based in the county. Super Garrisons are also being developed in Aldershot, Catterick and Colchester.

2. Sustainable Communities Study Project: The purpose of this project is to improve understanding of the dynamics of existing communities (specifically Bulford, Larkhill, Ludgershall, Tidworth and Warminster) including the impacts of the proposed changes to these settlements as a result of the Super Garrison development. The project funded by the Plain Action rural development programme and partners was completed in March 2011.

3. Joining Things Up Project – a co-ordinated approach to services for military families: The purpose of this project is to audit the provision of services to military families, including veterans, by statutory and voluntary agencies. As part of this work Wiltshire Council is supporting the development of the Personnel Recovery and Assessment Centre (PRAC) at Tedworth House - due to open in June - funded by Help for Heroes and The Royal British Legion. The project was completed in March 2011.

4. RAF Lyneham: Wiltshire Council is pressing the MoD for a decision on the future of Lyneham, following the announcement to close RAF Lyneham by the end of 2012. The council is extremely concerned about the future use of the site and the impact its closure will have on the local community and surrounding towns and villages. The withdrawal of troops from Germany could be an opportunity to retain a military presence at Lyneham if the MoD decides this option. Also, the council needs to consider other possible development options should the MoD decide to dispose of the site.

5. Research: The evidence base for the programme was derived from 2 earlier research projects:

- Military Presence and Economic Significance in the South West Region This report examined the military presence in the South West
- Envisioning the Future This report provided a comprehensive assessment of the military presence in the county

Armed Forces Covenant

On 16th May 2011 the government published a new tri-Service Armed Forces Covenant. Also, the government announced that, with an amendment to the Armed Forces Bill, the principles of the covenant will be enshrined in law for the first time. The covenant outlines the government's aspiration that the Armed Forces

Community should face no disadvantage compared with other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services.

Programme Organisation

A consortium led by Wiltshire Council is delivering the MCI Programme. The Sponsoring Group provides strategic direction to the MCI Programme Manager. Wiltshire Council is the 'Senior Responsible Owner' on the Sponsoring Group which includes: council representatives at Cabinet Member and Chief Executive level, HQ 43 (Wessex) Brigade, Defence Infrastructure Organisation (formerly Defence Estates), and representatives from Community First (voluntary sector) and the Wessex Association of Chambers of Commerce (private sector) in Wiltshire.

Further Information

For further information, please contact: Ian Cambrook, MCI Programme Manager, Pidela Consulting, tel: 07866 360334/email: ian.cambrook@googlemail.com or go to the MCI pages on the Wiltshire Council website.

To view the MCI DVD see www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mci