



## **MILITARY CIVILIAN INTEGRATION PARTNERSHIP UPDATE** **(INCORPORATING WILTSHIRE'S COMMUNITY COVENANT PARTNERSHIP)**

### **Issue**

The significant military presence in Wiltshire is changing again. The Government announcement on Transforming the British Army (known as Army 2020), the Regular Army Basing Plan and new Defence College of Technical Training at Lyneham combined with other military related developments will have far reaching implications for local communities for the foreseeable future.

[Wiltshire Council](#) working with [43 \(Wessex\) Brigade](#) and partners need to assess what this means in terms of infrastructure, impact on the economy and delivery of services. Therefore, the Military Civilian Integration (MCI) Partnership will continue to shape and positively influence MCI-related changes for the benefit of the civilian and military communities.

The work of the MCI Partnership is based upon what is known as the Army's Firm Base<sup>1</sup> policy and the Wiltshire Community Plan<sup>2</sup>.

### **Aim**

The aim of the MCI Partnership is to optimise the *economic* and *social* benefits of the military presence in the area. In turn, such integration will benefit Armed Forces personnel, their families, veterans, and local communities.

### **Objectives**

The MCI Partnership has 7 main objectives:

- To identify and respond to the changing military 'footprint' in Wiltshire
- To maximise the economic contribution of the military to the county
- To enable the realignment of service provision by the Council and its partners to meet the changing needs of the military, their families and veterans
- To capitalise on opportunities for regeneration and building sustainable communities in line with the Army Basing Plan
- To ensure the county continues to remain an attractive location for our Armed Forces and long-term investment by the MoD
- To encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces through the Wiltshire Community Covenant
- To assist Service leavers, and redundees in particular, in career transition and into employment in the area, helping soldiers back into society

### **Partnership Work Streams and Outputs**

**1. Salisbury Plain Super Garrison/Army Rebasing:** The Salisbury Plain Super Garrison is the 'core' work stream in the partnership. The significance of [Army 2020](#) and the [Army Basing Plan](#), involving troops returning from Germany and around £800m investment by MoD over the next 5 years or so, is being assessed. It is anticipated that other Government departments will also be investing in infrastructure in the Salisbury Plain area.

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<sup>1</sup> The 'Firm Base' describes a secure environment, at home and overseas, that sustains the Army, enables training for, and deployment on, operations and ensures the consent and support of the public and host nations. Most of the activities required to support soldiers are linked – welfare and accommodation being good examples. The delivery of these services, therefore, requires working closely with the community (Source: MoD).

<sup>2</sup> People, places and promises, The Wiltshire Community Plan 2011-2026.

**2. Defence College of Technical Training:** The new [Defence College of Technical Training](#) at Lyneham will open in late 2015, subject to planning permission, with around 2,000 students and staff. The construction phase is worth up to £230m and the winning contractor will be announced in December 2013. The 'end state' will see around 5,500 students and staff on site by 2019.

**3. Armed Forces Covenant/Military Civilian Community Integration:** [Wiltshire's Armed Forces Community Covenant](#) was launched in August 2011. The aim of the Community Covenant, including the grant scheme, is to encourage local communities to support the Service community and nurture understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community. Wiltshire also adopted its [Armed Forces Veterans Charter and Action Plan](#) and is taking forward a number of community integration initiatives.

**4. Employment & Enterprise:** The main purpose of this work is to support the employment and enterprise aspirations of Service leavers and military spouses; to offer support and guidance to those thinking of starting a business, business start-ups, and existing small businesses; to link this work stream into the [Wiltshire Business Support Service](#) and [The Enterprise Network](#); and to work in collaboration with MoD's [Careers Transition Partnership](#) for those seeking to be employed. Four new enterprise centres are due to open this year.

**5. City Deal 2:** [City Deal](#) is a Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) initiative – currently being negotiated with government departments – to unlock the economic potential of the military presence and use the skills of Service leavers to support business growth. SWLEP and the MCI are working in collaboration to achieve these outcomes.

**6. Porton Science Park:** The purpose of this work is to develop the infrastructure for the Porton Science Park including a new incubation centre by 2015. [Tetricus](#), [Defence Science and Technology Laboratory](#) (Dstl) and [Public Health England - Porton](#) (formerly the Health Protection Agency) are involved in the new science park development which was awarded £10m through the [Regional Growth Fund](#).

**7. University Technical College:** The [University Technical College](#) (UTC) partnership will establish a new college, specialising in Science and Engineering for around 600 14-18 year olds, in Salisbury. The distinctive characteristic of UTCs is their close links with employers, including 43 (Wessex) Brigade, and universities. The college will open with an initial cohort of 14-16 year olds in September 2015 and is estimated to be worth £40m over the next decade.

**8. Troops to Teachers:** The [Troops to Teachers](#) initiative – currently under development – is a Government backed scheme to recruit ex-Armed Forces personnel as teachers.

**9. Research:** The evidence base for the partnership comes from:

- [Military Presence and Economic Significance in the South West Region](#) This report examined the military presence in the South West (March 2009)
- [Envisioning the Future](#) This report provided a comprehensive assessment of the military presence in Wiltshire (July 2009)
- [Military population in Wiltshire and the South West region](#) (October 2012)

Our latest research is focusing on mapping of the veterans' community (due for publication by the end of 2013).

### **Partnership Organisation**

The MCI Partnership Board provides strategic direction and guidance to the partnership and MCI Delivery Group in particular.

The Board comprises: The Leader Wiltshire Council, Commander 43 (Wessex) Brigade, Cabinet Member for Economy, Skills and Transport, Corporate Director, Service Director Economy & Regeneration, Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership representative, Community First/Plain Action, Defence Infrastructure Organisation, Defence Technical Training, Homes & Communities Agency, and work stream leads as necessary. The Board and Delivery Group meet about every 8-10 weeks.

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