



UPDATE ON WILTSHIRE MILITARY CIVILIAN INTEGRATION PROGRAMME

Issue

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

Although there is an awareness of these changes taking place Wiltshire Council and partners need to quantify what this means in terms of infrastructure, services and economic activity in the county. Therefore, the Military Civilian Integration (MCI) Programme was set up to shape and positively influence these changes, where possible.

Wiltshire Council working with Headquarters 43 (Wessex) Brigade needs to become more agile in its responses to these military changes, providing leadership to strategic partners to ensure that Wiltshire develops as a sustainable community for all of its citizens.

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 region
- 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' (MoD agency staff, MoD Civil Servants and Defence contractors)
- The spending power of military personnel is worth around £400m per annum to the economy
- The development of the Salisbury Plain Super Garrison (SPSG) 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, Chippenham, Corsham, Salisbury, Tidworth, and Wilton
- 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

Programme Outputs

1. Salisbury Plain Super Garrison: The SPSG Project 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. Regeneration & Building Sustainable Communities Project: This project is undertaking 2 tasks; first, to identify suitable sites for over 900 homes working with Defence Estates, second, to identify the wider benefits that could arise from the sustainable growth of military settlements as more balanced and integrated communities, involving more substantial re-development and regeneration starting in Bulford, Larkhill and Tidworth.

3. South West Research Project: The South West of England Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) commissioned Wiltshire Council to undertake research to strengthen the evidence base on the military presence in the region. This research informs local and regional policy, so that the economic potential of the military presence in the region is better understood and can be fully harnessed over the medium to long-term. The [Military Presence and Economic Significance in the South West Region](#) report was published in March 2009.

4. Wiltshire Research Project – Envisioning the Future: The Wiltshire Research Project, [Envisioning the Future](#) provides a comprehensive assessment of the military presence in the county and identifies current issues that exist in local communities where there is a military presence. The report was published in July 2009.

5. Attitudinal Sampling Project: This project allows the programme to survey public opinion and attitudes towards the military presence in the county. The survey is based upon The People's Voice panel (3,800 adult Wiltshire residents).

Improved support to the Armed Forces Community

The government published new measures to deliver improved welfare and support for the Armed Forces community (Service personnel, their families and veterans) in July 2008. These measures were announced in [The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans](#) and increasingly this important on-going work is shaping the programme. Wiltshire Council and Headquarters 43 (Wessex) Brigade continue to contribute towards this policy development in the MoD.

Programme Organisation

A consortium led by Wiltshire Council is delivering the MCI Programme. The Sponsoring Group provides strategic direction and guidance 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, Headquarters 43 (Wessex) Brigade, Government Office for the South West, South West RDA, 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.

PC/MCI/March 2010