

Lyneham – Issues and Actions



The priority for Wiltshire Council is safeguarding the long-term future of Lyneham following the government announcement (July 2011) that Defence Technical Training will move to the site from 2013.


Outlined in the table below are ‘issues’ concerning the drawdown of RAF Lyneham. Overall, Wiltshire Council faces 2 specific challenges:


- First, dealing with the move of Defence Technical Training into the Lyneham site post-2012
- Second, dealing with economy and community related issues (Note: these issues will not necessarily arise in the order shown below)





The table focuses on the wider economy and community related issues that are urgent and need to be addressed in the months ahead. This is ‘work in progress’ and based upon information received from the Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board, chambers of commerce, RAF Lyneham, Lyneham Steering Group (LSG), and the Military Civilian Integration (MCI) Programme Sponsoring Group.


Please note that Defence Estates (DE) is now known as the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and so will be referred to as DIO within this document.


Issue	Action required	Suggested ‘lead’	Priority by ‘traffic light’ system
Key dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End 2012 – RAF Lyneham closes • From 2013 – Defence Technical Training likely to transfer to Lyneham in a series of phased moves 			
Improving communications			
Need to improve communications with key local groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Boards • Parish/Town Councils • RAF HIVE • Chambers of Commerce 	Establish effective, and regular, communication flows. Comment: On-going task for Lyneham Steering Group members.	Lyneham Steering Group	
Accommodation/housing:			
When will RAF families move out of the Lyneham area? What numbers will be expected to relocate at each stage of Programme Future Brize (PFB)?	Determine timeline for movement of RAF personnel and their families between now and 2012. Comment: A number of personnel	RAF Lyneham	



	<p>have already received Assignment Orders and are currently moving or poised to move to Brize Norton (from 1st April 2011). However the majority of Squadrons and Sections will move in July 2011, with the remaining personnel moving at various points from then until September 2012, after which only a small closure team will be left until December 2012. It is expected that families with children of school age will try to relocate within the school holiday period 2011. Some families will choose to apply to retain their Service Families Accommodation (SFA) on a 'surplus' basis, which will allow them a 28-day rolling contract to occupy their current SFA for an undetermined period. Therefore in some instances the Service person's workplace will be relocated but the family will not move in the medium term.</p>		
<p>Will other Service families from other MoD units locally be moved into SFA at Lyneham?</p>	<p>Determine future use of SFA</p> <p>Comment: Currently there are already a significant number of Army families from other units</p>	<p>DIO Housing</p>	




	<p>utilising accommodation at Lyneham, in particular from Hullavington (Buckley Barracks), South Cerney and Cirencester. It is a DIO decision whether additional accommodation is required at Lyneham for additional Army families from these or other units. The Army families who live at Lyneham but are not connected to RAF Lyneham will not be relocated as part of the PFB process.</p>		
<p>Will DIO retain SFA at Lyneham or will it be sold off by Annington Homes?</p>	<p>Determine future ownership of SFA.</p> <p>Comment: It is anticipated that the SFA currently housing Army families from other local units will remain in use by DIO, along with the RAF families who have been granted permission to retain their SFA as a surplus quarter. As stated previously, it is a DIO decision whether additional accommodation is required at Lyneham for additional Army families from these or other units, or indeed whether the SFA homes currently in Lyneham are retained.</p>	<p>DIO Housing</p>	



How long is the maximum period that any SFA homes are likely to remain empty before re-occupancy/sale?	Determine possible periods of non-use of SFA. Comment: DIO to reply.	DIO Disposals	
When will RAF families know what geographical area they will live in?	Determine plan to move RAF families by area. Comment: The geographical areas identified for RAF Brize Norton accommodation for families are: Faringdon, Fairford, Shrivenham and through private renting within a 10 mile radius of RAF Brize Norton (known as Substitute Service Families Accommodation – SSFA). Once RAF families receive their Assignment Order (posting notice) they can apply for housing.	RAF Lyneham	
If DIO confirms there is no longer a requirement to retain the empty SFA in Lyneham, will Wiltshire Council consider taking on the properties, either directly or via local housing association(s) to ensure a quick turnaround of occupancy?	Determine plans for use of surplus SFA, if applicable. Comment: It is understood that DIO, through Annington Homes, could offer some surplus SFA for short-term letting to tenants in the private sector.	Wiltshire Council	
Will Service families/Lyneham residents be offered the opportunity to purchase surplus SFA on a 'first refusal' basis if the homes are no longer required by MoD?	Determine plans for sale of surplus SFA. Comment: DIO to reply. However this is not normal policy for	DIO Housing	



	<p>housing disposal – MoD housing is usually vacated, handed back by DIO to Annington Homes and then advertised and sold by Annington Homes as a private affair to any interested parties on a 'first come first served' basis.</p>		
Children and young people			
<p>What is the future of the Youth Club, its building and its resources?</p>	<p>Determine future of Youth Club building and resources.</p> <p>Comment: In September 2010, Station Youth Workers and accompanying Sessional Youth Work Staff were employed to work on RAF stations with 8 - 19 year olds, as part of a national 'Airplay' programme funded by the RAF Benevolent Fund. The Youth Club building will be in use by RAF Lyneham's Airplay staff and volunteers offering various youth work opportunities until September 2012, when the facility will close and the Airplay programme at RAF Lyneham will cease. The Community Development Worker (CDW) and Station Youth Worker will undertake the appropriate disposal of Youth Work assets, including items restricted by any</p>	<p>RAF Lyneham/Wiltshire Council (Youth Development Service)</p>	



	<p>grant funding regulations and with reference to any requirements in line with the constitution(s) of relevant MoD youth group(s). The resources may be moved to other RAF stations and/or local youth provision, as appropriate.</p>		
<p>What additional resources, if any, will be allocated to Lyneham to maintain youth provision in the village, currently provided by the RAF?</p>	<p>Determine Youth Club provision in Lyneham area.</p> <p>Comment: Until September 2012 there will be one Station Youth Worker and 3 Sessional Staff members undertaking Youth Work as part of the Airplay programme. Part of their work between now and September 2012 will involve active liaison with Wiltshire Council's Youth Development Service and partnership working until the end of their contract, with the aim of handing over all provision of youth activities from the RAF to the wider community. From September 2012 the RAF will not have any input into this – it will be an issue for Wiltshire Council's Youth Development Service and the Lyneham & Bradenstoke Parish Council.</p>	<p>Wiltshire Council (Youth Development Service)</p>	




<p>What support will be offered to maintain support groups and activities e.g. parent and toddler groups, children's judo classes currently facilitated by the RAF?</p>	<p>Determine alternative arrangements, if possible. Comment: From September 2012 at the latest there will be no RAF facilities available to support these groups. The closure of some of the facilities may come much earlier subject to the limited ability and availability of the (vastly reduced numbers of) Service personnel to administer and maintain facilities, buildings and support groups.</p>	<p>Wiltshire Council (Early Years and Childcare Service/Youth Development Service)</p>	
<p>What will happen to the children's play equipment at the RAF HIVE if RAF Brize Norton do not take ownership of it and relocate it?</p>	<p>Determine ownership of play equipment. Comment: Items which are easily removable can be transferred to RAF Brize Norton (or an alternative RAF station in need of equipment or facilities). It has been determined that there is no merit in relocating the 2-storey indoor play facility to any other site, as due to the health and safety regulations involving play equipment of this type, relocating it would cost a similar amount to buying a brand new structure. This means it will be unavailable for use once the HIVE building closes. The costs of relocating the outdoor play equipment within the</p>	<p>RAF Lyneham</p>	

	HIVE garden are being considered.		
Economy/support for economic development			
What support, if any, will be offered to local businesses during and after the RAF drawdown?	Determine nature of business support needed. Comment: Roger Tym & Partners report on the economic impact of the closure of RAF Lyneham completed in May 2011. Business support event planned for October 2011. Also, it is intended to include Lyneham in the action plan for the new Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership.	Wiltshire Council (Economy & Enterprise Service)/NWEF/ Chambers of Commerce	
What action will be taken to minimise the 'gap' between the RAF leaving Lyneham and the arrival of Defence Technical Training	Determine long-term plan for the Lyneham site. Comment: Defence Technical Training due to brief LSG on 15 th September.	Wiltshire Council/MoD	
Funding			
What is the position regarding Council Tax when SFA becomes empty, including the funding implications for the parish council(s)?	Determine Council Tax position. Comment: MoD pays contributions in lieu of Council Tax (CILOCT) to Wiltshire Council under an agreement with DCLG. In October Wiltshire Council will start the process and set the formula used to calculate next year's Council Tax.	Wiltshire Council	


Health			
When will the Regional Medical Centre at RAF Lyneham close?	<p>Determine numbers of RAF families likely to register with local GPs.</p> <p>Comment: RAF Lyneham's Regional Medical Centre (RMC) will draw down significantly over the coming months but will remain open for the healthcare of the remaining RAF Lyneham Service personnel until December 2011.</p> <p>Service personnel who have been posted from RAF Lyneham will receive healthcare at their new unit, including those who have chosen to retain their SFA home in Lyneham. All family members of Service personnel were required to change their registration for Primary Health Care from the RMC to a local NHS practice, before August 2011. This is regardless of the date of the Serving person's posting. After August 2011 no dependants will receive healthcare from the RMC.</p>	RAF Lyneham	
Will there be a progressive decrease in service from the	Determine plan to rundown the Regional Medical Centre.	RAF Lyneham	

<p>Regional Medical Centre, and if so will local GP surgeries be able to cope with a progressive increase in patients, potentially well before December 2012?</p>	<p>Comment: As stated above, no family members of Service personnel will receive medical care from the RMC from August 2011. Six local NHS practices in Wootton Bassett, Calne and Sutton Benger have been identified and advertised to RAF families, and are aware that they may receive requests from patients wishing to register.</p>		
<p>Will RAF Lyneham families with children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in the middle of the SEN 'statement' process be fast-tracked through the Wiltshire Council system to ensure timely transfers to RAF Brize Norton and to avoid geographical family separation/extensive commuting?</p>	<p>Determine transfer plan for children with SEN.</p> <p>Comment: Service families with children with SEN will be encouraged to identify themselves to Wiltshire Council as preparing to move, and will also be encouraged to contact the Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS) if required. (CEAS is a MoD-funded organisation which provides information and support to Service families and eligible MoD civilians on all aspects of the education of their children).</p>	<p>Wiltshire Council (Early Years and Childcare Service)/ RAF Lyneham</p>	
<p>Note: no Service families are registered with the Dental Centre at RAF Lyneham</p>			
<p>Infrastructure</p>			
<p>What alternative arrangements will be put in place to do things currently done within Lyneham by</p>	<p>Determine transitional arrangements</p>	<p>RAF Lyneham/DIO Disposals/DIO Housing/Wiltshire Council</p>	



<p>the RAF contractors e.g. clearing ditches in winter, tree cutting, grass cutting etc, both within the village and within the SFA?</p>	<p>Comment: The maintenance contracts currently in place which address these issues will remain active until December 2012, after which time if the estate still sits with MoD, responsibility will pass from the RAF to DIO Disposals. Queries regarding maintenance after that date should be directed to DIO Disposals to address. However, it is likely that as this is not MOD owned land, and has been carried out on a goodwill basis, responsibility will lie with Wiltshire Council, and DIO Housing/Annington Homes for the SFA areas.</p> <p>To be reviewed after Defence Technical Training announcement</p>		
<p>What arrangements will be put in place to insure/maintain the play areas in the SFA estates, if housing around play area sites is declared as surplus to requirements by the DIO?</p>	<p>Determine transitional arrangements.</p> <p>Comment: DIO will engage with the relevant bodies if, and when, this situation occurs.</p> <p>To be reviewed after Defence Technical Training announcement</p>	<p>DIO Disposals</p>	
<p>What alternative arrangements need to be put in place to charge for utilities supplied to SFA that is no longer required by the DIO, i.e.</p>	<p>Determine transitional arrangements</p> <p>Comment: This is a RAF</p>	<p>RAF Lyneham</p>	


electricity, gas and water?	<p>Lyneham issue, not DIO. SFA does not receive electricity or gas from RAF Lyneham.</p> <p>Water services will need to be re-provided to ensure they are able to operate independently and RAF Lyneham is proceeding with this planning. The risk of possible water contamination is noted.</p> <p>To be reviewed after Defence Technical Training announcement</p>		
What alternative arrangements need to be put in place involving civilian housing in Lyneham and within surrounding villages (e.g. Hilmarton, etc) that state they currently rely on RAF Lyneham for water supplies etc?	<p>Investigate utility supplies to determine if this is a significant issue.</p> <p>Comment: Where the lease/sale documents state the MoD is obliged to re-provide this service to surrounding homes it will do so.</p>	RAF Lyneham	
What arrangements will be made to care for the memorials at RAF Lyneham when the base closes?	<p>To be investigated.</p> <p>Comment: This is a RAF responsibility. An inventory of all memorials has been produced and a copy has been sent to Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Council.</p>	RAF Lyneham	
Schools and education			
<p>Crèche and Pre-school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimated number of children over drawdown 	<p>To be investigated.</p> <p>Comment: There is one crèche</p>	Wiltshire Council (Early Years and Childcare Service)/RAF Lyneham	

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<p>period?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakdown of Service/civilian users? • Breakdown of Service dependants/civilian staff? • Future population estimate? Timescale for return of premises to the DIO? • Alternative Premises and support required for the continuation of (currently RAF-provided) Crèche and Pre-school facilities 	<p>(Bumble Bees Crèche) and 2 Pre-school groups (Lyneham Village Independent Pre-school and Little Albert's Pre-school) in Lyneham. At present there has been no request from DIO to return the properties currently utilised by the crèche and Little Albert's Pre-School. The CDW is currently working with the Officers In Charge of the facilities and will explore whether a local Army unit could take on the general management of the facilities, if DIO agrees to allow the retention of the buildings for MoD childcare purposes.</p> <p>Meeting held with the Early Years and Childcare Service to consider essential actions.</p> <p>To be reviewed after Defence Technical Training announcement</p>		
<p>Primary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated number of children over drawdown period? • Breakdown of Service/civilian pupils? • Number of classes required? • Number of teaching staff 	<p>To be investigated.</p> <p>Comment: All figures obtained regarding the movement of school age children have already been given by RAF Lyneham to Lyneham Primary School to assist, as far as possible, with the planning and development of</p>	<p>Wiltshire Council (Early Years and Childcare Service)/RAF Lyneham</p>	

<p>required?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future population estimate? • Registration requirements for Oxfordshire? • Potential additional community use for school facilities? • Potential local business/ Council-run facilities within unused space in School building to substitute services currently provided by RAF Lyneham? 	<p>class structure and staffing.</p> <p>To be reviewed after Defence Technical Training announcement</p>		
<p>Secondary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated number of students over drawdown period? • Number of students in key examination years – related to SFA retention? • Future population estimate? • Registration requirements for Oxfordshire? 	<p>To be investigated.</p> <p>Comment: Figures for the movement of school age children have been given to Wootton Bassett School to assist with the planning and development of class structure and staffing.</p> <p>To be reviewed after Defence Technical Training announcement</p>	<p>Wiltshire Council (Early Years and Childcare Service)/RAF Lyneham</p>	●
Site security			
<p>What are the plans to maintain RAF Lyneham site security during and after the RAF drawdown</p>	<p>To be investigated.</p> <p>Comment: Until the station closure, the security of the site</p>	<p>RAF Lyneham/DIO Disposals</p>	●

<p>How does DIO plan to ensure that SFA homes remain secure as they become vacant, and do not become a target for housebreaking or criminal activity?</p>	<p>To be investigated.</p> <p>Comment: As a deterrent, the RAF Police will undertake regular patrols of the SFA areas. However as the overall security of SFA is a DIO responsibility, this issue will be one for DIO to address.</p> <p>To be reviewed after Defence Technical Training announcement</p>	<p>DIO Disposals</p>	
<p>What plans have been put in place to ensure the continued safety and security of the remaining occupied SFA when a significant number are likely to be empty? What consideration has been given to the safety and security of the rest of the village in relation to this?</p>	<p>To be investigated.</p> <p>Comment: It is anticipated that there will still be a police presence in Lyneham the form of the MoD Community Policeman, and an RAF Community Policeman, well into 2012. This is in addition to the policing resources provided by Wiltshire Constabulary. Also, as stated above, the RAF Police will undertake regular patrols of the SFA areas.</p> <p>DIO and Wiltshire Council will need to consider alternative plans for the post-closure period.</p> <p>To be reviewed after Defence Technical Training announcement</p>	<p>RAF Lyneham/DIO Disposals/ Wiltshire Council</p>	

How long will the MoD Community Policeman continue to be employed to work within Lyneham?	To be investigated. Comment: The MoD Community Policeman is expected to be working in Lyneham well into next year, as stated above. An exact date is yet to be determined. To be reviewed after Defence Technical Training announcement	RAF Lyneham	
Other – to be added, as appropriate			
New section on future issues to be added to encourage forward planning			

Legend:

-  = Issue represents ‘high’ risk to the community/Wiltshire Council or partners reputation and community cohesion.
-  = Issue represents ‘medium’ risk to the community/Wiltshire Council or partners reputation and community cohesion.
-  = Issue identified and there should be sufficient time to resolve it.

Glossary

CDW	Community Development Worker (RAF post)
CEAS	Children's Education Advisory Service (MoD agency)
CILOCT	Contributions in lieu of Council Tax
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DIO	Defence Infrastructure Organisation (formerly Defence Estates)
DTTCP	Defence Technical Training Change Programme
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
NWEP	North Wiltshire Economic Partnership
PFB	Programme Future Brize
RMC	Regional Medical Centre (RAF)
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SFA	Service Families Accommodation
SSFA	Substitute Service Families Accommodation