

Army Basing – Briefing for Wiltshire Council Partners

Purpose

1. This briefing has been produced jointly with the Army Basing Team within the MOD. It aims to provide stakeholders with reliable common data in planning for the arrival of a net additional 4,000 Service personnel and their families to the Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) and MOD Lyneham by 2020 under the Army Basing Programme (ABP). Army unit moves under the ABP could have implications for a range of Wiltshire Council partner organisations, which will need to consider what additional services or support may be required to meet increased demands. The stakeholders include amongst others:

- All teams within Wiltshire Council
- Elected Members of Wiltshire Council
- Local Members of Parliament
- Community Area Boards, City, Town, and Parish Councils
- Army Welfare Service
- Head teachers of schools affected
- Wiltshire College
- NHS commissioners and service providers in Wiltshire
- The emergency services
- Department of Work and Pensions
- Neighbouring local authorities in Hampshire, Dorset, Somerset, and Bath and North East Somerset
- MOD charities
- Homes England
- Local Chambers of Commerce.

2. A number of assumptions have been made to arrive at the data provided within this briefing, which are set out where appropriate.

Background

3. Following the Government's Army Basing Plan announcement in March 2013 Wiltshire Council was advised approximately 4,300 extra troops would be moving to Wiltshire by the end of the decade, accompanied by their families, bringing the total number of additional people to 7,600. The broad order of numbers was revised during the Army Basing Programme Salisbury Plain Training Area Masterplan which suggested a slight reduction in numbers to an additional c. 4,000 British Army personnel plus c. 3,200 dependants.

4. Further evaluation of personnel numbers has been made following the Army 2020 Refine exercise, which was published by the MOD in December 2016¹. The latest announcement revises some of the unit moves but the net impact remains largely unaltered. Actual numbers of Service personnel moving to SPTA will vary due to time between the production of this briefing and the final moves in 2019. It should be noted that the units returning from Germany are usually below “complement” due to a number of reasons, but in particular, Service personnel will not be posted to Germany when they are due to return within a relatively short timescale to minimise disruption and reduce relocation costs, which are much higher for overseas postings. In time and subject to successful recruitment, the full complement will be reached once the units are back in the UK. The Army 2020 Refine exercise also required a number of UK-based units, from Windsor, Stafford, Aldershot, Donnington and Blandford to relocate to Wiltshire, although these will mainly replace other units that were due to relocate to the county.

5. It also needs to be borne in mind that in addition to the unit relocations, Army restructuring continues and this may change the size and shape of units, which may result in smaller scale transfer of Service personnel and in some cases will change the location of their families. It is not possible to provide an accurate position on how this will change the location of families, particularly where moves are relatively local and families are free to relocate, or not, according to personal preferences. Accordingly the impact on individual settlements cannot be forecast until much closer to the arrival of the units.

6. The number of military personnel and their families relocating to Wiltshire under the ABP was produced within the MOD’s Salisbury Plain Training Area Masterplan. As stated above, this remains broadly unchanged within Wiltshire despite redistribution of Army units announced in the Army 2020 Refine exercise. This data is based upon the units being fully manned and therefore represents the upper level of numbers. For the reasons provided above, while the actual numbers are likely to be smaller at the point of transfer, previous practice shows that within a relatively short period of time full unit strength will be achieved and therefore additional facilities must be provided now, under the ABP, to cater for the larger numbers.

Table 1: Revised Service Personnel Nos and New Service Accommodation Being Provided.

Present Nos.in the SPTA*	Additional Service Personnel	New Total	New SFA Units	New SLA Units
12,202	3,834	16,036	1,017	2,600

SFA: Service Family Accommodation **SLA:** Single Living Accommodation

Note 1: 100 units of SFA have been acquired from open market housing (in Tidworth) resulting in 917 new SFA build by MOD. Of these, 450 will be at Larkhill, 225 at Bulford and 242 at Ludgershall.

(Source: MOD Army Basing Transition Team data – 1 June 2018).

Note 2: In addition, an additional 322 new family homes have been provided in Tidworth and though now managed under the ABP, these homes would have been provided separately to rationalise pre-ABP position housing stock.

¹ Strategic Defence and Security Review - Army: Written statement - HCWS367 15 December 2016 see: <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-12-15/HCWS367/>

Note 3: * Salisbury Plain Training Area - These numbers only include sites that will see change under the ABP. So while site numbers in, for example, Warminster are not included, there will be some uplift as a result of the MOD's Defence Estate Optimisation Programme².

The projected estimate for the total Army personnel within all Wiltshire Army sites in 2020 is 17,700 and there will be c. 14,300 family members in addition.

Assumptions used:

1. All units will be fully complemented (manned), noting those relocating from overseas will likely be under-manned on arrival and will gradually build up their numbers to the full complement.
2. 65% of the Service Personnel will be single, and therefore allocated Single Living Accommodation (SLA)
3. 35% of the Service Personnel will be married, and therefore allocated Service Family Accommodation (SFA)
4. Each household will accommodate an average of 1.5 children, based upon data from MOD's Joint Personnel Administration IT System
5. The majority of service families will choose to occupy SFA in Wiltshire.

Key Deliverables of the Army Basing Programme

7. The key MOD deliverables of ABP in the Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) are:
 - Approximately 1,000 SFA units as detailed above to be available by 2020 – the number and location of which being provided by the MOD takes account of the existing housing stock in the area and contingency for future needs.
 - Extensive new build for Service Living Accommodation (SLA).
 - Conversion of existing SLA blocks - taken with the new SLA this amounts to some 2,500 beds
 - Additional welfare, sports and mess facilities
 - Extensive new build and some conversion of existing technical accommodation, including workshops, garages, armouries, stores and offices
8. The MOD's Salisbury Plain Training Area Masterplan produced by its estate management organisation, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) set out the totality of new development in Wiltshire under the programme in 2014. DIO produced this as the basis of consultation, so the full context of development plans was available prior to the submission of individual planning applications. The Masterplan was referred to Wiltshire Council's Strategic Planning Committee in July 2015, in advance of submitting the planning applications. The applications for development within the camps at Bulford, Larkhill, Perham Down and Tidworth were approved under delegated powers, mainly in 2015. The three applications for SFA at Bulford, Larkhill and Tidworth were determined with conditions by the SPC in April 2016. However, following unexpected archaeological finds in Larkhill on the proposed site of the SFA and to improve the general layout, the plans have been revised. New planning applications were submitted for the revised layouts, with sequential approval of four phases; the last in May 2018.

² The MOD Programme that will deliver 'A Better Defence Estate' announced in Nov 16 and Army 2020 Refine

9. The applications were supported by Outline Transport Assessment and an Overarching Environmental Appraisals. The proposals were compiled in close cooperation with Wiltshire Council, engaging with local communities.

10. The s106 agreement for the three SFA planning applications provided Wiltshire Council with £21M of contributions, in addition to MOD funding the majority of road improvements as well as providing education land and further land and a building and community use. It is thought to be the largest single settlement in Wiltshire. Full details of the planning applications can be found at Appendix 1.

Implications for Wiltshire Communities

11. Additional facilities and services such as schools, housing, leisure activities, health, and social services are being provided by Wiltshire Council, with contributions from the MOD (see above) to meet this relocation. Accordingly Wiltshire Council and the MOD are committed to ensuring the agreed development is delivered when it is required and to enable a smooth transition of the additional military personnel and their families. This will help realise the benefits of additional skills and sites that will be available to aid economic growth in the wider community. It is therefore essential that good communication is maintained between the council, its partners, and the MOD.

12. Wiltshire Council continues to assess the level of services required using the latest data on Army personnel and their families for their arrival in 2019. Other partner organisations such as the NHS, Hampshire County Council and the emergency services have been engaged in planning for these moves through the Wiltshire Council's Army Basing Steering Group which has met regularly since 2013.

School Implications

13. As a consequence of the ABP, Wiltshire Council is planning to provide additional school and early years places as set out in Appendix 2. Wiltshire Council is working closely with the head teachers of the schools affected by the ABP, not only to ensure that school facilities will be available when required, but to assist with planning to recruit more teaching and support staff plus procurement of equipment.

14. The precise number of new pupils and their ages cannot be detailed until early 2019. Planning to date has been based upon the full complement of incoming units and applying national data on the percentage married and average number of children throughout the Army. In late 2018 no further accompanied postings to the units due to relocate to Wiltshire will be made. Accordingly, the MOD will have more accurate numbers of actual Army personnel and their families at that point. Furthermore the Army is seeking to ascertain from those affected their intent on whether they wish to settle in Wiltshire, whether they wish to avail themselves of SFA (or rent / buy from the private sector) and if they would seek to defer moving for personal reasons. Applications for new school places for Years 7 will be required by 31 October 2018 and for Reception classes by no later than 31 January. For other classes applicants' parents will be able to apply once the service person has received a posting notice, and thus all allocations will be finalised by May 2019. This data should give an accurate indication of class sizes allowing the schools to recruit staff and procure new furniture and school equipment in good time for the start of the academic year. It is anticipated that many school teachers

in the Army schools in Germany will be seeking new posts in the UK and it is hoped they will apply for the new posts in Wiltshire providing continuity for the pupils who transfer to Wiltshire schools.

Further Data

15. More data on the wider military presence in Wiltshire is provided at Appendix 4.

Who to Contact for Further Information:

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Army Basing Programme Data

- The final relocation of units from Germany under the Army Basing Programme (ABP) is planned for the summer of 2019, a year ahead of the original target. The majority of units leaving Germany since the programme started in 2015 involve relocations to Wiltshire.
- In addition to units transferring from Germany, a smaller number of UK-based units are due to transfer to Wiltshire. Full details of the unit relocations achieved and to be implemented affecting Wiltshire are detailed at Appendix 3.
- Similarly some units in the Salisbury Plain area will disperse to other parts of Wiltshire (e.g. Lyneham).
- Planned investment by the MOD in Wiltshire exceeds £1bn of the overall £1.8bn programme.
- ABP will deliver 917 new Service Family Accommodation with 100 bought from the open market as well as the 322 new SFA at the Ashdown Estate site in Tidworth which are required for other reasons not connected with the ABP.
- The ABP will create significant enhancement of military facilities in Tidworth, Larkhill, Bulford, Perham Down, Lyneham and potentially Upavon camps.
- Public engagement during the Masterplan process, which included three public meetings and exhibitions, was widely regarded as an example of best practice and achieved a highly commended award from the Royal Town Planning Institute in 2015 for planning. In addition it won best in category (for *Excellence in Planning Decision Making*) at the 2017 Regional RTPI awards and was a finalist in the national awards (for *Excellence in Planning to Deliver Housing*).
- Wiltshire Council's management of the programme was subject to a Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review in September 2016. The LGA team considered the partnership approach engendered by the council as an exemplary programme and was the subject of a national best practice seminar held in London on 26 May 2017.
- The ABP development will be granted by some 25 or so separate planning applications. The main applications submitted to date include those in the following table.

No.	Location	Date Submitted	Web link	Description
Priority Works - In advance of the Main Planning Applications for Camp Development				
1	Perham Down	17/11/2014	14/10940/FUL	4 x JRSLA blocks @ Perham
2	Larkhill	12/12/2015	14/11548/FUL	2 x office buildings @ Larkhill
3	Perham Down	12/01/2015	15/00195/FUL	'Paired' Mess at Perham Down
4	Larkhill	09/01/2015	15/00891/FUL	Officers SLA @ Larkhill
5	Perham Down	12/01/2015	15/00921/FUL	Officers SLA @ Perham
6	Larkhill	09/01/2015	15/01188/FUL	SNCO mess and SLA block @ Larkhill
7	Tidworth	06/02/2015	15/02629/FUL	SR Mess and SLA, Tidworth
8	Bulford	06/02/2015	15/02916/FUL	7x JRSLA blocks at Bulford
9	Bulford	22/05/2015	15/04376/FUL	SR mess and SLA at Bulford

SFA Applications				
1	Ludgershall	27/03/2015	15/02770/FUL	Ludgershall 246 SFA units etc.
2	Bulford	13/05/2015	15/04006/FUL	Bulford 227 SFA units etc.
3	Larkhill	23/06/2015	15/05540/FUL	Larkhill SFA – Amended by applications below
4	Larkhill	21/04/2017	17/03959/FUL	Larkhill SFA Phases 1 and 2
5	Larkhill	04/07/2017	17/06370/FUL	Larkhill SFA Phase 3
6	Larkhill	16/01/2018	18/00397/FUL	Larkhill SFA Phase 4
7	Larkhill	16/04/2018	18/03588/FUL	Larkhill school access road turning point
Main Camp Development Applications				
1	Perham Down	07/04/2015	15/03313/FUL	Perham Down Main Camp Works
2	Bulford	17/06/2015	15/05950/FUL	Bulford Main Camp Works
3	Larkhill	30/06/2015	15/06682/FUL	Larkhill Main Works
4	Tidworth	30/07/2015	15/08644/FUL	Tidworth Main Works
5	Bulford	03/08/2015	15/03456/FUL	Vehicle wash-down facility
6	Upavon	04/05/2016	16/04058/FUL	Upavon Main Works

Army Basing - Wiltshire Council School Programme

The following additional school infrastructure is to be provided by the summer 2019:

- An additional **150 places** at **Bulford, Kiwi** Primary were completed in June 2016, in readiness for the new academic year in September 2016 to accommodate children from the incoming 5 RIFLES unit. It should be noted that the extension to Bulford St Leonard's Primary, completed at Easter 2016, will also be available for these and other children, but did not require funding from the Army Basing Programme.
- The transfer and expansion of **St Michael's Primary School** from **Figheledean** to **Larkhill**, adjacent to the proposed new 450 SFA development will be operational with effect from September 2018. The new school will have a capacity of 420 pupils for which the MOD is providing the majority of funding to accommodate the extra children to be housed at Larkhill. MOD provided the land (1.8 hectares) for the school to be constructed.
- The provision of **60 Early Years** places to be incorporated into the above school will also be available from September 2018.
- The extension of **Avon Valley College** to provide some **270** additional places.
- The extension of **Wellington Academy** to provide some **105** additional places. The MOD is also providing two hectares of land to extend Wellington Academy.
- The provision of a **new primary** school at **Ludgershall** alongside the MOD's proposed 242 SFA development. This will provide **210** places and will be operational with effect from September 2019. A further 210 places which are not connected with the Army Basing Programme, and will provide places for the growing civilian community will also be built there. MOD provided 2.3 hectares of land to allow the larger school to be provided.
- The provision of **30 Early Years** places to be incorporated into the above school will also be operation with effect from September 2019.

Total Places to be provided as a direct result of the Army Basing Programme

Early Years	90	60 at Larkhill (St Michael's) and 30 at Ludgershall (new).
Primary	750	390 at Larkhill (St Michael's), 150 at Bulford (Kiwi) and 210 at Ludgershall (new).
Secondary	375	270 at Durrington (AVC) and 105 at Tidworth (Wellington Academy).

NB: These schools are being provided with additional places for the civilian community funded by Wiltshire Council.

The present school build programme is as follows:

School	Planning Permission	Contract Let	Land Transfer	Advance Wks SOS	Main Wks SOS	RFH
Bulford Kiwi Primary	18/12/15	12/15	N/A	N/A	01/16	06/16
Larkhill St Michael's Primary	30/03/17	04/07/17	11/05/18	19/06/17	21/08/17	06/08/18
Durrington AVC Secondary	11/10/17	26/02/18	N/A	N/A	15/04/18	24/08/19
Tidworth WA Secondary	10/05/18	16/07/18	11/05/18	N/A	01/07/18	15/07/19
Ludgershall - Wellington Primary	16/03/18	16/07/18	01/08/18	N/A	01/06/18	21/07/19

Army Basing – Unit Relocations Affecting Wiltshire

Unit	From	To	Earliest Date
Completed			
<i>HQ 8 Force Engineer Brigade</i>	<i>Upavon</i>	<i>Minley</i>	<i>Oct-13</i>
<i>1 Royal Anglian</i>	<i>Bulford</i>	<i>Woolwich</i>	<i>Jul-14</i>
<i>1 Battalion The Mercian Regiment</i>	<i>Catterick</i>	<i>Bulford</i>	<i>Jul-14</i>
<i>Military Stabilisation Support Group</i>	<i>Larkhill</i>	<i>Hermitage</i>	<i>Jul-14</i>
<i>215 Signal Squadron</i>	<i>Tidworth</i>	<i>Colerne</i>	<i>Jul-14</i>
<i>47 Regiment Royal Artillery</i>	<i>Thorney Island</i>	<i>Larkhill</i>	<i>Aug-14</i>
<i>HQ 1 Artillery Brigade/ HQ SW</i>	<i>Upavon / Honington</i>	<i>Tidworth</i>	<i>Sep-14</i>
<i>HQ Intelligence & Surveillance Bde</i>	<i>Various</i>	<i>Upavon</i>	<i>Apr-15</i>
<i>4 Battalion The Rifles</i>	<i>Bulford</i>	<i>Aldershot</i>	<i>Aug-15</i>
<i>Land Intelligence Fusion Centre</i>	<i>Bulford</i>	<i>Hermitage</i>	<i>Mar-16</i>
<i>5 Battalion The Rifles</i>	<i>Paderborn</i>	<i>Bulford</i>	<i>Aug-16</i>
To be implemented			
HQ 20 Armoured Infantry Brigade	Sennelager	Bulford	Aug-2018
44 Military Intelligence Company	Sennelager	Bulford	Aug-2018
Household Cavalry Regiment	Windsor	Bulford	July-2019
HQ 7 Signal Group	Donnington	Bulford	Junel-2019
74 Section, 4 Investigation Coy	Bielefeld	Bulford	Aug-2019
5 Force Support Battalion REME	Tidworth	Lyneham	July-2019
1 Regiment Royal Horse Artillery	Tidworth	Larkhill	June-2019
19 Regiment Royal Artillery	Tidworth	Larkhill	June-2019
3 x PF Batteries Royal Artillery	Albemarle	Larkhill	July-2019
26 Regiment Royal Artillery	Gutersloh	Larkhill	July-2019
Queens Royal Hussars	Sennelager	Tidworth	July-2019
1 Armoured Medical Regiment	Sennelager	Tidworth	July-2019
4 Armoured Medical Regiment	Aldershot	Tidworth	Aug-2019
3 Close Support Battalion REME	Paderborn	Tidworth	Aug-2019
1 Signal Regiment	Stafford	Perham Dn	Sep-2019
RHQ 15 Signal Regiment	Blandford	Perham Dn	July-2019
207 Signal Squadron	Stafford	Perham Dn	July-2019
255 Signal Squadron	Stafford	Perham Dn	July-2019

Wider Military Data

Regular Armed Forces in Wiltshire

On completion of the Army Basing programme, approximately 21% of the Regular Army will be resident in Wiltshire - with 16,000 in the Salisbury Plain area.

Armed Forces Reserves in Wiltshire

There are 494 Reservists in Wiltshire and 604 members of the Army Cadet Force, 109 in the Sea Cadet Corp, 536 in the Air Training Corp and 524 in the Combined Cadet Force.

The Reserves are serving with the following units:

- “B” & “Y” Squadrons of the Royal Wessex Yeomanry (Old Sarum House in Salisbury and Swindon)
- 280 Squadron, 162 Regt Royal Logistics Corps (Swindon)
- 129 Company, 103 Battalion Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (Swindon)
- B Company 7 RIFLES (Swindon)

Veteran Numbers

It is very difficult to accurately assess the number of veterans in Wiltshire or indeed in the UK. The Royal British Legion has undertaken national estimates based on Office of National Statistics and other data sources, such as pension and compensation payments. In 2014 Wiltshire Council undertook its own local research and produced a report titled: “*Veterans population in Wiltshire.*” This states:

*“This report, can with confidence account for approximately 70% of veterans in Wiltshire, based on an estimated population of **53, 603.** (This is equal to 11.6% of the population of Wiltshire).”*

Significant data source used	Number in Wiltshire	% of estimated veteran population
Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) recipients	11,615	22%
Male Wiltshire population aged 72 and over (adjusted) (<i>who will have completed National Service</i>)	23,000	43%
RBL beneficiaries	2,495	5%
Total	37,109	70%