

North Yorkshire County Council
Richmond (Yorks) Area Constituency Committee

29 August 2018

Development of Catterick Garrison

1. Purpose of report - to set the scene for an initial discussion on the impact of the development of Catterick Garrison.
2. Catterick Garrison is the British Army's largest garrison, comprising over 20 barracks and facilities spread across three civil parishes (Hipswell, Scotton and Colburn). The population of the three parishes totals around 16,500 of which around 5,700 are military personnel and around 7,300 are the families of military personnel. In addition around 3,000 military personnel are trained at the Infantry Training Centre each year.
3. As part of Army 2020 Refine (the Ministry of Defence's plan for the restructuring of the British Army), the number of military personnel based permanently in the Garrison is expected to increase to around 8,400 by 2030. This is expected to result in a similar increase in the families of military personnel.
4. The numbers of military personnel, the military units involved and the detailed timescales are still to be confirmed. An announcement from the Government on these is expected in autumn 2018. The commissioning by the MOD of an Assessment Study has been delayed.
5. Subject to confirmation, it is anticipated that the first part of the development will start in 2020. The timing of the second part will be linked to MOD estate disposals across the UK. However, as the development of the Garrison is part of a complex national programme and subject to future strategic defence reviews, the timings and eventual extent of the development may change.
6. The development of the Garrison will require significant MOD investment in military workspace and housing (both single person and family). There will also be a rationalisation of the existing Garrison estate, releasing land for commercial development (retail and hospitality) and new open market housing.
7. The MOD has established programme management arrangements and a multi-agency strategic group. Strategic group membership includes the County Council Leader and Chief Executive, with similar representation from Richmondshire District Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership.
8. The provision of school places is a key issue for the County Council. In 2017 three primary schools in the Garrison were expanded and a new school is planned for 2019. Two classrooms were added to Colburn Community

Primary School, three classrooms and a new hall were added to Le Cateau Community Primary School, and one additional classroom was added to Hipswell CE Primary School. A new primary school will also be built on the Darlington College site. This new school, to be known as Cambria Community Primary School, is scheduled to open gradually in September 2019, with a phased pupil build-up starting with just its Reception and Nursery opening.

9. The County Council has significant experience of working with the MOD to prepare for large scale changes in military presence, most recently major unit moves in 2015 and 2016 from Germany and Cyprus. The County Council is also engaged in managing the impact of moves of military personnel and their families as part of the usual pattern of military re-deployments. Ofsted and the Royal British Legion have recognised best practice examples from North Yorkshire regarding admissions and pupil wellbeing.
10. However, at present, there is still uncertainty about the future demand for school places. A number of scenarios are being considered to further expand primary and secondary capacity.
11. The provision of local roads and other infrastructure is also a key issue for the County Council. At present, there is still uncertainty about the additional infrastructure - including roads - that will be required.
12. The County Council is working with the MOD and Richmondshire District Council to prepare the background evidence which will enable the impact of the development on the highway network to be quantified, including the current base position taking into account the recently opened A1(M) upgrade and Bedale, Aiskew and Leeming Bypass.
13. The MOD and local authorities have agreed to develop a joint masterplan for the development of the Garrison, alongside a refresh of the Richmondshire Local Plan 2012-28. The Government's Planning Delivery Fund has allocated £50,000 to support innovative housing design which will see consultants work with the local authorities and the MOD on the masterplanning exercise. The MOD has also agreed to fund an additional three-year post in Richmondshire District Council's planning team to cope with demand during the exercise, and has allocated £20,000 to support communications work to keep the public up to date with the development. It is important that the masterplan is developed in true and positive partnership with local stakeholders including the County Council, seeking to ensure that military and wider public service interests are considered and addressed in a way that maximises the quality of place wherever possible.
14. The development of the Garrison will give the local economy a significant boost with increased spending by military personnel and families, more opportunities for spousal employment, and further expansion of the Garrison 'town centre'. There will also be other opportunities if the MOD can be

persuaded to undertake more local procurement. The County Council is keen to work with the MOD, the Local Enterprise Partnership and other partners to seek to maximise the economic benefit of the development for the benefit of everyone living in Hipswell, Scotton, Colburn and the surrounding area.

15. The successful integration of increased numbers of military personnel and their families, and civilians resident in new open market housing, with the existing communities of Hipswell, Scotton and Colburn will require proactive leadership and partnership from the MOD, military unit commanders, local authorities, local community organisations and the developers of new open market housing.
16. NHS England has provided £317,000 to enable the NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the MOD to develop a joint business case which would potentially lead to the building of a new integrated care facility for everyone living in Hipswell, Scotton, Colburn and the surrounding area. The CCG and the MOD will be seeking to inform the public about, and involve them in, the development of the joint business case.
17. The County Council and many other local partners are signatories to the Armed Forces Covenant <http://nypartnerships.org.uk/covenant>. This is a promise to ensure that those who serve or have served in the armed forces and their families are treated fairly, there is no disadvantage in the provision of public services to the members of the armed forces community compared to other citizens, with special consideration for those who have given the most such as the injured or bereaved.
18. The Committee is recommended to consider the issues raised in the report, in particular:
 - a. An announcement from the Government is expected in autumn 2018 regarding the numbers of military personnel, the military units involved and the detailed timescales.
 - b. Detailed planning on essential infrastructure, including school places and roads, is not possible until the Government has made the announcement and the Assessment Study to be commissioned by the MOD has been completed.
 - c. Any delay will seriously hinder the ability of the responsible bodies, including the County Council, to have the essential infrastructure in place in time.
 - d. The development of the Garrison will give the local economy a significant boost, but there will also be other opportunities if the MOD can be persuaded to undertake more local procurement.

- e. The need for proactive leadership and partnership to ensure the successful integration of increased numbers of military personnel and their families, and civilians resident in new open market housing, with the existing communities of Hipswell, Scotton and Colburn.

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16 August 2018