Action Notes from Oxfordshire County Council Civilian Military Partnership

5 June 2014, RAF Brize Norton

Attendees:

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<tr>
<th>Attendee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joanna Simons</td>
<td>Chief Executive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sue Scane</td>
<td>Director, Environment &amp; Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dave Etheridge</td>
<td>Chief Fire Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackie Wilderspin</td>
<td>Assistant Director of Public Health</td>
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<td>Roy Leach</td>
<td>School Organisation and Planning Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Jelley</td>
<td>Senior Policy Officer</td>
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<td>Maj Dave Dray</td>
<td>145 Brigade</td>
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<td>Gp Capt Mike Naworynsky - SERFCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Col Iain McKend</td>
<td>Station Commander Abingdon</td>
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<td>Maj Mike Mapstone</td>
<td>Bicester Garrison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wg Cdr Dave Turner</td>
<td>RAF Brize Norton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wg Cdr Simon Twose</td>
<td>CO Shrivenham Station</td>
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<td>Victoria Paterson</td>
<td>145 Brigade</td>
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Apologies:

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<tr>
<td>Jim Leivers</td>
<td>Director Children, Education &amp; Families</td>
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<td>Jonathan McWilliam</td>
<td>Director of Public Health</td>
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<td>John Jackson</td>
<td>Director for Social &amp; Community Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frances Craven</td>
<td>Deputy Director, Education &amp; Early Intervention</td>
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<td>Maj Jodie Kennedy-Smith</td>
<td>145X</td>
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<td>Nicola Budd</td>
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<td>Gp Capt Martin Reynolds - DPHCS</td>
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<td>Lt Col Simon Mason</td>
<td>OUOTC</td>
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<th>Item</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Update from Brigadier Andrew Hughes:</strong></td>
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<td>The Brigadier thanked RAF Brize Norton for hosting the meeting.</td>
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<td>The army continue to focus on the withdrawal from Afghanistan, Army 2020, the restructure of 145 Brigade, Rebasng and Transition.</td>
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The brigadier outlined his 3 priorities:
- Reserves Growth
- Transition
- Rebasings

145 Brigade will become 11th Infantry in August 2014 taking on 2 foot guards units and 2 Ghurkha units.

In Bicester 23 Pioneer Regiment are continuing to move out and 1 Logistics support are not expected in until Aug 15 to Aug 16.

241 Signal Sqn are also arriving but this will have no effect on housing and schooling in the area.

The previous changes in Abingdon have been confirmed as not going ahead.

The logistics unit debate between Bicester and Donnington has not progressed and is unlikely to do so before Spring 2015.

**Community Covenant Grant Schemes** allocation is £850k across the Brigade. Whilst this is due to end this year there will be a new £10m fund of which the details have yet to be announced.

The **Transition** event running in Abingdon has 100 service leavers attending with 42 businesses represented. Using a model of where service leavers want to settle and identifying the businesses in that area bringing the two together seems to work well.

It was agreed that a brokerage role is needed, identifying opportunities, skills shortages and bidding for funding. Potential of using some of the LEP skills funding. There appears to be a shortfall in the technician skills across the county and this should be an area of focus.

**It was agreed the working group needs some additional drive.**

The brigadier ended his update with thanks to the County Council for the on-going support and the Armed Forces Day invitation.

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Update from Joanna Simons:

Joanna thanked the group for all the support it gave during the flooding in the county.
As budgets are increasingly being squeezed the upcoming general election is likely to see more. OCC are already looking to mitigate for this and are bringing closer working practices between adult social care and health. OCC are seeking more government funding for infrastructure projects.

The recent local elections saw Liberal Democrats lose some seats with Labour gains and no rise in UKIP.

The housing growth agenda is creating tensions around numbers and locations. More details are available in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA).

Fire provision for Carterton has recently been reviewed and there is a bid into central government for an integrated blue light building with community facilities.

The County Council are planning a Corporate Covenant event in the autumn bringing together public sector and businesses to promote the benefits of reservists and military engagement.

WW1 Anniversary events are being promoted on the Lord Lieutenant web pages.

**Sarah to ensure goes in next newsletter.**

Department for Culture Media and Sport are also promoting the Lights Out event on the 4 Aug 10 – 11pm. The Council will be participating in the event.

**Sarah to send details to the group.**

4624 Squadron based at RAF Brize Norton will parade through Oxford on 11 Oct 2pm as part of their Freedom on the County status.

### Update from the RAF:

**Benson**

- As part of the ‘Future Benson Plans’ the maximum personnel will remain at between 1500 – 1600
- Single Living Accommodation provides 120 additional beds which means there is nobody in this group off camp
- There is sufficient families accommodation on camp and the surrounding area without placing additional pressure off camp
- 18 June will be a major crash and disaster exercise
- 75th Anniversary of Benson – Sqn Ldr Andy Maton to
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| send brochure out  
- 2018 will be the 100th Anniversary of the airforce and Benson will be linking this with WW1  
- Local police are cooperating well in light of the reduction of military police  
- The play areas have been renewed including a skate park  
- Broadband has been well received  

**OCC Comms to be made aware of major exercise**

**Brize Norton**
- Established a Transition Officer role  
- Programme Gateway is a project to review which areas can be civilianised.  
- A map of the new plans was circulated, green are new developments, red are aspirational  
- A noise survey was recently completed in relation to the private housing bordering the base. The results can be found on the website  
- Carterton Schools Partnership has received £311k from DCYP  
- Broadband has been put in all the Single Living Accommodation (2,500 rooms)  
- Additional houses will be built by 2016, there will be no impact on the repatriation parking  

**Wg Cdr Dave Turner to link with Sue Scane re programme gateway**

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| **Update from Shrivenham**  
- Peter Watkins has been posted, Admiral Morse is Acting Director General and commandant of staff college  
- The new Director General will be in post Oct 2014  
- Cornerstone is restructuring to create better partnerships with colleges  
- Single Living Accommodation is being reviewed for new students  
- Schools funding for English as a second language with Watchfield and Faringdon  
- MOD have improved the access to Watchfield School  
- There will be increased vehicle transits as the move takes place  
- Expansion plans for the Defence Academy  
- Closure of A417 in Sept for 4 months shouldn’t cause any major issues  
- Music and Fireworks takes place on 19 July  

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<td><strong>Themed Discussion – Health and Wellbeing</strong></td>
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The group met on 3 June, discussion items included the JSNA which features military data, although more consideration should be given to primary care data on serving personnel and families.

Evidence suggests that health needs are not that different to the rest of the population, however this is not clear for the reservists transitioning from active service back to work. The group will be doing more work on this looking at the concerns from local field hospitals.

Recent reports suggest veterans are not a special case for mental health issues and PTSD is not the ticking time bomb. Veterans are asked to declare their status with GP's.

- Public Health will be running a series of campaigns including Immunisation
- Breastfeeding
- Smoking cessation
- Alcohol Awareness
If any of the bases feel these would be useful please contact Jackie.

At the recent health fair at RAF Benson the use of sports supplements was questioned as some could mean the failure of a drugs test. There is a published list of suitable ones available.

**Sqn Ldr Andy Maton to send details to Dave Etheridge.**

5  Themed Discussion – Children and Education

Roy Leach updated the group on the expansion of Five Acres at Ambrosden.

Home to School Transport will have an effect on RAF Benson as the nearest school would be Wallingford.

Carterton Community College will open their 6th Form in Sept 14

Icknield are considering establishing a 6th Form and will be consulting later in the year.

6  Themed Discussion – Economy and Infrastructure

Sue Scane gave a presentation covering:

- The key message is Oxfordshire is ‘Thriving’
- Growth is happening, SHMA, LEP, City Deal, Connecting Oxfordshire
Part of City Deal is the need for Infrastructure in growth
  o £55m additional funding
• Strategic Economic Plan extends this across the county
  o 19 schemes submitted totalling £323m
• Western Conveyance Channel
  o Bid in submission stage
• Connecting Oxfordshire is the leaders vision for bringing together infrastructure across the county including Network Rail developments
• Milton Interchange works start in the autumn
• Chilton Slips will become a 4 way junction
• South Hinksey/Kennington roundabout works begin June
• Oxford Parkway Station next year
• Oxford Station redevelopment Jan 15
• Westgate works begin with car park closures Jan 15

Planned works are about improving capacity ahead of growth.

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7 An update from Brigadier Hughes on Reserves

Brigadier Hughes updated on his plans to ensure reservists are working alongside regulars in a fully integrated way.

Recruiting teams are visiting the major events and shows around the county.

Employer Engagement has been more difficult, however a three way approach is hoped to increase the numbers:
  o Identify business and suitable employers
  o Ask reservists to recruit others
  o Big events – next event 8 July, Williams F1

8 Any other business

1. SOFO Launch – 15 June
2. SERFCA Briefing – 19 June, includes small businesses for the first time.
3. Brize Norton would like to Cadets expanded into state schools
4. Shrivenham have become a defence accreditation organisation

9 Date and Time of next meeting:

27 January - 1pm Networking Lunch, 2pm Meeting