

Development Overview

Who will consider the planning application for the redevelopment of St Athan?

A planning application for the provision of the Defence Technical Academy and Aerospace Business Park will be submitted to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

When will the development begin?

Our current expectation is that a planning application will be submitted in Spring 2009 to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Subject to the necessary consents being secured, the construction of the Defence Technical Academy, Aerospace Business Park and associated infrastructure is expected to take between three and four years to complete, with the first intake of trainees at the Academy expected in 2014.

How much will the construction of the Defence Technical Academy cost?

The development of the Defence Technical Academy will be one of the largest Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts to date with a value of approximately £12 billion. This value includes the construction and ongoing running of the Academy. The cost of construction of the estate at St Athan will be approximately £700m.

Why isn't the area of 'Possible Additional Sports Facilities' shown on the draft plan near Llantwit Major being provided within the existing MOD St Athan site?

The boundary footprint of the proposed development is broadly similar to that shown in the Development Brief approved in July 2006 and the majority of the development falls within the site of the existing MOD St Athan facility. Discussions have already been initiated with the interested parties to purchase any additional land required.

The 'possible additional sports facilities' are located where shown as they are too extensive to be provided within the main site. In addition, they need to be provided in an area which will be easily accessible to both the Academy and the wider community to make shared use a more feasible concept.

Will there be an increase in the size of the local police force in proportion to the increase in the local population?

There will be an appropriately sized MOD police presence associated with the Defence Technical Academy.

Transport

Is there a possibility of a train station at St Athan?

The possibility of reinstating St Athan train station has been considered. However, because the distance from the old St Athan station to the proposed main entrance to the Defence Technical Academy is the same as the distance from Llantwit Major station to the proposed main entrance, it is felt that Llantwit Major is the best placed local station to serve the site.

In addition, it would be unlikely that an additional station would be supported by Network Rail or the Train Operating Companies without the closure of an existing station on the line. The stations at Rhoose and Llantwit Major are not suitable candidates for closure.

To support the potential increase in numbers using the train to reach the Defence Technical Academy and Aerospace Business Park, there are plans to increase the frequency of trains to and from Llantwit Major station. This could be supported by the provision of a shuttle bus service between Llantwit Major station and the site.

What are the proposals for the Green Travel Plan?

A Green Travel Plan will be developed in due course and submitted with the planning application in Spring 2009. This is likely to include a number of measures to reduce car usage, such as encouraging site personnel to use public transport.

When are you planning on discussing proposals with the Local Authority and public transport companies?

The St Athan project team, including the Welsh Assembly Government, has already begun discussions with the Local Authority and these will be ongoing throughout the planning process. Initial discussions with public transport companies will be held by the Local Authority.

Will the new access road be built before construction starts?

Detailed discussions will be held with the local highway authority in due course to agree when each element of the proposed improvement works are needed and required.

Planning applications for the redevelopment of St Athan will include proposals for routing and mitigation measures for construction traffic generated by the development proposals.

Are you consulting with the planning team that put together the Llan cadle conservation assessment?

The St Athan project team is in ongoing liaison with the Vale of Glamorgan Council planning team, which has officers responsible for dealing with issues of built conservation including the majority of local villages, including Llan cadle, which are designated as conservation areas.

Could you increase the width of the road at the junction to Llan cadle and Fonmon to include a dedicated lane for turning right into Fonmon?

At present, there are no plans to carry out any work at this junction.

**How much will traffic levels increase on the roads to and from the Academy?
Has a survey been carried out to establish what volume of traffic uses the single track lane from St Athan to Cowbridge and the Eglwys Brewis Road, and projections for the impact of the new development on these roads?**

As part of the planning process, a full transport assessment will be undertaken. The transport assessment will include surveys of current traffic volumes and modelling of predicted increases in traffic levels in the surrounding area to provide projections for the impact of the new development on local roads. As a result of the transport assessment's findings, appropriate measures to minimise impact on the local road network will be taken.

Why can't the main access to the site be from the south on the B4265?

The main access to the Defence Technical Academy will be via a new access road and junction built from the B4265 to ensure that traffic to and from the site is provided with direct and separate access onto the main road. If the main access to the site was from the south, it would be necessary for all traffic to cross both the railway line and runway making it an unviable option.

However, there are proposals to create an access to the southern area of the Aerospace Business Park, located to the south of the runway, from the B4265.

Is it just an aim, not a condition to reduce access through St Athan village?

As far as possible, it is the intention to design access junctions to the Defence Technical Academy and Aerospace Business Park to inhibit traffic movements to and from St Athan village. Final design details will be agreed to the satisfaction of the local highway authority.

Employment

Can you provide projected job creation figures for the Defence Technical Academy and Aerospace Business Park?

At this relatively early stage in the project, it is very difficult for us to give specific details of the types and number of jobs to be created by the Defence Technical Academy - for example, until we are in a position to ask, we will not know how many existing MOD employees will relocate to St Athan. However, the total figure is likely to be some thousands including existing MOD employees who transfer to St Athan and jobs created locally. In addition, the Welsh Assembly Government believes that the Aerospace Business Park has the potential to create around 2,000 jobs.

Will jobs be available for the local population? What types of jobs will be created?

As part of our employment strategy, we are already working closely with a number of bodies and organisations to ensure the local and regional community is best placed to take advantage of employment opportunities created by the development. For example, we have developed strong links with the Welsh Assembly Government's Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS) to manage our relationships with the leading academic institutions in South Wales including UWIC, Cardiff University, Barry College and the University of Glamorgan. To aid our discussions with these institutions, we have identified the types of jobs that will be created.

In addition, we are keen to encourage local employees wherever possible and a number of initiatives are already being considered such as, for example, the creation of a local 'job shop' to communicate the available opportunities.

Environment

Will there be the use of wind turbines and solar panels for heating?

Renewable energy sources are being considered but at present there are no plans to install wind turbines or solar panels at the site. However, to help meet the energy needs in a sustainable manner, the proposed development will include an Energy Centre incorporating a bio-mass generator that would be fuelled in part by wood chips, reducing carbon emissions for the Defence Technical Academy by between 30 and 60 per cent per annum.

What area of land will be required to house the new Defence Technical Academy and Aerospace Business Park? How will its environmental impact be minimised?

The boundary footprint of the proposed development is broadly similar to that shown in the Development Brief approved in July 2006 and the majority of the development falls within the site of the existing MOD St Athan facility.

An Environmental Statement examining all aspects of the development's potential impact on the local environment will be prepared and submitted as part of the planning applications for the development. We are also consulting with environmental organisations such as the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency as we develop the design and environmental studies.

A comprehensive series of measures will be implemented to ensure that the effects on wildlife are minimised and new habitats provided will be of the highest standards. The proposed development will include a number of green spaces, many of which will be landscaped. A

series of new ponds and associated habitats will be created which will provide a haven for wildlife and an ideal habitat for the existing population of great crested newts.

In addition to this, a series of environmental policies will be adopted that will include one of the most comprehensive recycling and composting schemes of any modern development. On site water retention will be introduced to control surface run-off and a waste minimisation strategy will see rubble from the demolition phase being re-used as building materials and in the landscaping of the site.

Housing

How much housing will be constructed to cater for people moving to the area for employment? Can any of the existing housing be utilised?

Single Living Accommodation, mainly for trainees, will be provided on site. In addition, up to 550 houses will be built to provide family accommodation for personnel during their stay. Design will be of a high standard that will complement the local area. A number of potential sites in and around the area are being considered and assessed in terms of their suitability.

The provision of new housing will also take account of any existing service family accommodation which is available to meet these needs.

Will any housing be provided to cope with the increased population of non-service personnel moving to the area for employment?

There are currently no specific plans to provide additional housing for non-military personnel working at the Defence Technical Academy or Aerospace Business Park. The need for any additional provision will be assessed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council as part of the normal development planning process. In addition, WAG carries out annual studies to ensure that there is a continual five year supply of housing.

Would the building work be put out to tender to national housebuilders?

A number of procurement options are currently being explored for the delivery of the Service Families Accommodation. Putting it out to tender to national housebuilders is one of these options.

Have the Llandow Neywdd proposals been taken into consideration?

A preliminary study carried out by Defence Estates has reviewed all potential commercial housing developments within acceptable commute distances of St Athan. This information will be used in the Assessment Study and Investment Appraisal in determining the most cost effective and value for money procurement option for the provision of Service Families Accommodation.

Will there be compulsory purchases of land to facilitate the construction of additional housing?

There is no change to the boundary footprint of the development to that contained within the Development Brief approved in July 2006 and the majority of the development falls within the site of the existing MOD St Athan facility. In respect of the Defence Technical Academy and Aerospace Business Park requirements, discussions have already been initiated with interested parties to purchase any additional land required.

In respect of housing, the sites being considered prioritise nearby land owned or controlled by the MOD and have been presented to the Vale of Glamorgan Council as part of the Scoping Study. If this is found to be insufficient or unsuitable, other options for delivering the housing will be considered, such as the use of commercially available sites, as part of the Service Families Accommodation Study being carried out by Defence Estates.