

# News story: Defence Minister outlines progress on building a Better Defence Estate

In a statement to MPs, Mr Ellwood confirmed that the MOD has already disposed of nine sites and has advanced its plans for the release of other sites which have been identified for sale.

The changes under the Better Defence Estates Strategy, announced in 2016, are the most significant since the end of the Second World War and will see the sale of 91 sites owned or managed by the MOD.

The site sales will release land no longer required by the military, which will be able to be used for more economically beneficial purposes, such as house building.

The plans will save the taxpayer around £140 million by the end of the decade, rising to £3 billion by the end of 2040. The changes will also reduce the number of personnel being regularly moved between different bases, providing greater long-term stability and certainty for our Armed Forces and their families.

All money raised will be reinvested back into defence, with £4 billion committed to improving military bases, including accommodation.

Mr Ellwood also announced that the RAF will stop using RAF Linton-on-Ouse in North Yorkshire by 2020 and RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire by 2022.

RAF Scampton is the current home of the Red Arrows and work is underway to find them a new home fit for purpose. The MOD will work closely with the local council and potential buyers to ensure the site's future use meets the needs of the local economy, whilst also exploring ways in which the heritage of the site, including a museum, can be preserved.

Despite RAF Scampton's closure, the RAF presence in Lincolnshire continues to grow. There will be significant investment in the Lincolnshire area, with several hundred service personnel arriving at RAF Cranwell, RAF Waddington and RAF Coningsby over the next five years.

RAF Linton-on-Ouse, the main base for the No.1 Flying Training School, will cease being an RAF Station in 2020 and the MOD is currently considering other potential defence uses, ahead of an eventual disposal of the site.

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Tobias Ellwood said:

Our military bases are where our service personnel live, train and work, so it's important that we have sites which suit the needs of the armed forces.

That's why we're making our defence estate more modern and efficient, by closing sites we don't need and investing in more modern accommodation. As well as saving money, and allowing reinvestment back into a more modern and better defence estate, the changes will provide greater long-term stability and certainty for our Armed Forces and their families.

## Key facts

- The Better Defence Estates strategy is part of the Defence Estate Optimisation Programme, which will reduce the size of the built estate by 30 per cent by 2040 and will meet our SDSR commitment. See the strategy [here](#)

The programme has already delivered nine disposals at:

- Hullavington Airfield
- Chalgrove Airfield
- Somerset Barracks
- MOD facilities at Swansea Airport
- Moat House
- Rylston Road ARC (London)
- Newtonards Airfield
- Copthorne Barracks
- Lodge Hill
- The plans will deliver savings of over £140 million of running costs over the next 10 years, rising to nearly £3 billion by 2040. This is in addition to the £4 billion which will be spent over the next 10 years.
- As at 1 April 2016, the MOD currently controls around 2% of UK land, owning more than 568,000 acres of land and foreshore in the UK (either freehold or leasehold) and holding the rights over a further 548,573 acres.
- The estate includes approximately 50,000 houses, 60,000 technical assets such as hangars or workshops and 20,000 other key assets such as runways and electrical networks.
- The cost of maintaining this estate is significant, approximately £2.5bn per annum and spread across too many inefficient assets and sites.
- Approximately 40 per cent of our built assets are over 50 years old and do not meet the needs of a modern fighting force.
- The size of the built estate has reduced by 9 per cent since 1999/00 compared to a total personnel reduction of 36 per cent.

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# Press release: Government proposes shake-up of Local Enterprise Partnerships

New proposals for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to supercharge economic growth and drive forward investment in local businesses across the country have been put forward by ministers today (24 July 2018).

The publication of the '[Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships](#)' review sees government delivering on its promise in the [Industrial Strategy white paper](#) to bring forward reforms to the leadership, governance and accountability of the 38 LEPs charged with kick-starting economic growth and creating jobs in their regions.

The review proposes a number of changes to boost the performance of LEPs, increase their diversity and ensure they're operating in an open and transparent way. These include:

- up to £20 million of additional funding between 2018 to 2019 and 2019 to 2020 to support the implementation of these changes and embed evidence in Local Industrial Strategies
- supporting LEPs to consult widely and transparently on appointing new Chairs and improve board diversity
- a requirement for women to make up at least one third of LEP boards by 2020 with the expectation of equal representation by 2023
- a mandate for LEPs to submit proposals for revised geographies including removing situations in which 2 LEP geographies overlap

The Communities Secretary, Rt. Hon James Brokenshire MP, said:

This publication of the Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships policy represents a step change in approach for LEPs. We will continue our work to strengthen these leading institutions to develop ambitious strategies for growth and build an economy which is fit for the future.

Local Growth Minister, Jake Berry MP, said:

We've committed over £9 billion to help LEPs through 3 rounds of Growth Deals to deliver on their investment priorities, while creating new and exciting economic opportunities for local businesses and communities across the country.

This landmark shake-up of our local enterprise partnerships will

help us deliver on our pledge to deliver over £12 billion through the Local Growth Fund by 2021 while allowing LEPs to use their local knowledge to deliver inclusive growth.

## **Further information**

### **Local Growth Fund**

Local Enterprise Partnerships are playing a vital role in driving forward economic growth across the country, helping to build a country that works for everyone.

By 2021, government will have invested over £12 billion through the Local Growth Fund, allowing LEPs to use their local knowledge to get all areas of the country firing on all cylinders.

Analysis has shown that every £1 of Local Growth Fund invested could generate £4.81 in benefits.

The full [‘Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships’ report](#) can be accessed on GOV.UK

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## **Policy paper: Progress towards the sustainability of the building stock in England: sixth Parliamentary report**

Section 6 of the [Sustainable and Secure Buildings Act 2004](#) requires a biennial report on the sustainability of the building stock in England.

This current report covers progress between November 2014 and November 2016 (unless otherwise stated) in relation to:

- furthering the conservation of fuel and power
  - preventing waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water
  - furthering the protection or enhancement of the environment
  - facilitating sustainable development
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*Updated:* Erratum: “Metric tonnes” on page 8 should read “million tonnes”. This has been corrected in both downloads of the report.

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# News story: UK creates world's first 3D winder for complex carbon fibre parts

Specialist machinery manufacturer [Cygnet Texkimp](#) and the [University of Manchester](#) have created a cutting-edge machine to support the next generation of fuel-efficient cars and aeroplanes.

The 3D Winder is the world's first robotic winding machine capable of laying carbon fibre to make complex, lightweight composite parts for industry.

It comes out of a 2-year Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP).

Luke Vardy, Managing Director of Cygnet Texkimp, said:

The 3D Winder revolutionises what the composites industry can achieve with winding. It offers benefits in terms of cost and speed of manufacture as well as the strength, uniformity and repeatability of the finished product.

There is nothing else like it on the market at the moment. It is the first machine of its kind.

## **Turning research into reality**

The 3D Winder builds on a prototype from the university's [School of Materials](#).

Through the KTP, the Northwich-based company brought in PhD graduate and composites academic, Dr Yan Liu, to develop this technology to work with more complex and curved shapes.

The resulting machine uses a technique called filament winding to create complex components such as fuel pipes and aircraft wing spars, which are the main structural members of the wing.

It does so cost-effectively, in high volumes and at high speeds. Trials have shown it to produce parts much quicker and to a higher integrity than traditional methods such as braiding and weaving. It has the potential to wind an aircraft wing spar in just a few minutes.

[Cygnet Texkimp](#)

Reflecting on the KTP, Luke said:

Partnering with the university enabled us to carry out extensive research into advanced filament winding techniques.

It laid the groundwork for us to develop a new filament winding product stream more quickly than we otherwise would, to be first to market with an innovative new product.

Following the success of the partnership, Yan was offered a permanent role at Cygnet Texkimp's R&D centre.

## **The future is bright**

Since the project ended, the 3D Winder has gone on to be recognised by industry. In 2017 it won the [Composites UK Trade Association's](#) innovation in composite manufacture award.

A production-scale version of the machine is now being used to carry out advanced trials with international part manufacturers, including one of the world's leading automotive wheel manufacturers. The very lightweight quality of composite components make the 3D Winder ideal for the aerospace and automotive sectors.

Luke continued:

We're on the threshold of a new generation of lightweight, fuel-efficient cars and aeroplanes. Demand for greater fuel efficiency and lower emissions is driving the need for better ways of producing and using intelligent materials such as carbon fibre composites.

Our long-term objective is to see this technology adopted as a conventional way to produce composite parts throughout the world.