



Damian Hinds
MP for East Hampshire

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Statement from Damian Hinds on the Strategic Defence Review and the Bordon Eco Town Project

Yesterday the Ministry of Defence confirmed that the Government was cancelling the contract with Metrix, the company charged with delivery of the £14 billion Defence Technical College in St Athan, Wales. The DTC would have served as the new home for the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, currently stationed in Bordon.

Defence Secretary Liam Fox said

It is now clear that Metrix cannot deliver an affordable, commercially robust proposal... it has therefore been necessary to terminate DTR (defence training rationalisation project) procurement and Metrix's appointment as preferred bidder.

Equally, St Athan was previously chosen as the best location on which to co-locate that training for good reasons and we still hope to base our future defence training solution there.

Responding to the announcement, Damian Hinds said

The cancellation of the contract with Metrix to deliver the Defence Technical College at St Athan will delay clarity on the future of the army at Bordon. In talks on Tuesday evening, the Secretary of State for Defence, Liam Fox, confirmed to me that it would now be at least the end of March 2011 before we would know if an alternative proposal for St Athan would go ahead, but that St Athan does remain the Ministry's preferred choice for co-located training.

So for Bordon, and the Eco-Town proposal, the message is that there will be a delay, but that the underlying issues and decisions required are quite likely to remain. The extra time will give further opportunity for public discussion, and if the move does go ahead I remain strongly in favour of there being a local referendum after there is clarity on the army's move but before the Eco Town plans are bindingly committed to.

ENDS

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