

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you in connection with the Public Consultation on the Defence Infrastructure Organisation's vision for RAF Halton. My detailed comments are below but can you please add me to the circulation list for updates as they arise and especially the proposed time table for the process to move forwards. I am sure you will see from the below that we are extremely keen to participate and do our utmost to preserve the rich Heritage of RAF Halton and the RAF Apprentice scheme. I am greatly encouraged by the positive comments contained in the DIO vision regarding these very important matters.

Trenchard's vision in creating the RAF Apprentice scheme not only provided the necessary technical backbone to the newly created RAF but also presented opportunities for social mobility for almost 40,000 young men, many of whom had highly successful careers in the RAF and beyond that in the civilian world.

Here are my comments:

1. To create a Flight Heritage Centre for the people of Buckinghamshire and beyond incorporating broader community uses by following the objectives detailed below.
2. St Georges church (Building 326) – acquisition or prime tenant status for the RAFHAA so that they can undertake protection of the church especially the stained-glass windows, the Tribute (in front of Kermod Hall) and the First World War training trenches (listed status).
3. Co-operation with the DIO (Defence Infrastructure Organisation of the Ministry of Defence) the Wing Commander Operations and other senior officers of RAF Halton such as the Station Commander to bring about sympathetic transfer of Heritage assets to RAFHAA on closure of RAF Halton. Please see especially pages 121, 122 and 147 regarding how an expanded St Georges would sit within the proposed 'green corridors' referred to in the DIO document entitled 'A Vision for Development at RAF Halton' dated June 2018.
4. To work with Halton Village Parish Council towards implementing the expansion of the St Georges area as detailed in the points below.
5. Funding sympathetic development to the rear of the existing church (subject to planning permission) to create suitable areas for the transfer of a revitalised Trenchard Museum, the RAFHAA archive and the James McCudden Flight Heritage Centre (currently in Buildings 23 and 29).
6. To open this extended area of resource to the general public with a view to generating paying visitors, general use and income. Visitor numbers to the Trenchard Museum and St Georges run typically at a figure well in excess of 11,000 per annum with no promotional activity beyond the RAF family.
7. Within the proposed extended area to create a dedicated Flight Simulator room to attract visitors and generate additional income. The flight simulators are currently in place in the James McCudden Flight Heritage Centre.
8. Within the proposed extended areas to create suitable meeting rooms to enable youth groups to undertake meetings and training, such as the Air Training Corp (currently located on the RAF Halton airfield) and the Scouts for example and to generate additional income.
9. To expand the Cool Aeronautics programme currently operated by the Trenchard Museum for the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) for 9-11 year old students. This will help address the extended waiting list this highly successful programme has generated so that the Government requirement to increase interest in STEM subjects is being addressed in Buckinghamshire. Currently this programme helps educate up to 1,000 children per year and is expected to generate a steady income from RAeS.
10. To engage with the Royal Air Force Association (currently located on the RAF Halton Airfield) to explore the opportunities for collaboration.
11. To create a memorabilia shop and café within the extended museum area to generate income.

12. To create a small private area of worship with piano etc, so that those who are wishing to use it can have access. This is especially relevant to those who have travelled to Halton to scatter ashes at the Tribute.
13. The areas to be added will also be available for hire for events such choir practice, concerts, cocktail parties and Halton Apprentice Reunions to name a few.
14. To create local employment for museum staff in order to be open for longer hours than are currently possible.
15. Please use this link to access our contribution supporting the Bucks Cultural project "Bucks in 100 items" - <https://buckinghamshireculture.wordpress.com/bucks-in-100-objects/halton-apprentice-scheme/>

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Trustee - RAF Halton Apprentices' Association – Registered Charity Number 292523