Sherin Aminossehe (Director Infrastructure, FMC)

The Defence Estate Optimisation Portfolio (DEO) isn't about infrastructure. It isn't about the buildings or the utilities. It isn't even about the resulting surplus sites that will be sold creating countless options for regional development and prosperity. It's about the people, and the defence capability, the portfolio supports and the difference it will make to their daily lives.

DEO is the opportunity to build homes, training grounds, facilities, hangars, barracks, offices, ranges, parade grounds, and medical centres that our service men and women deserve. And it's about building them correctly. They need to be more efficient, better designed, more sustainable and better value than their predecessors to really deliver lasting benefits.

On current plans DEO will provide over 25,000 new and re-furbished homes and single living accommodation; new and re-furbished office facilities for over 12,000 personnel; and over 150 specialist workshops, garages, medical, catering and welfare facilities across the country.

DEO covers projects as diverse as moving the world-famous Red Arrows to a new purpose-built home, to building operating bases for our defensive cyber capabilities and STRIKE combat requirements.

DEO therefore is rightly a priority for Defence, and already we have delivered (or are in the process of constructing) new facilities at four MOD sites – the latest being a new museum that will be open to all telling the story of faith in the forces, and be a remembrance to war and peace at our Shrivenham site west of Oxford.

In short, DEO is an opportunity to make a difference with an investment in our people and the homes where they live, and the places where they work.



External to Defence benefits

While DEO is a Defence portfolio of works, it's benefits can and will be felt by the wider community and population around Defence sites. DEO has the potential to create 20,000 direct construction jobs at build projects on MOD sites being invested in. In addition, the release of surplus land no longer needed by Defence creates opportunities for regional development. Masterplanning with local authorities for some of these sites include schools, herritage hotels, and new homes. Already DEO has released sites with the potential for 5,215 new homes to be built.