

RAF Cosford – BREAKING NEWS (SHROPSHIRE STAR)

Tuesday 19 October



RAF Cosford was today saved from the axe after the Government announced it was scrapping plans to move defence training to South Wales instead.

Campaigners claimed victory after Defence Secretary Liam Fox said the plans were no longer “affordable”.

Mr Fox said preferred bidder Metrix consortium, which was awarded £14bn to create a new state-of-the-art defence training super centre at St Athan, could not longer deliver a “commercially robust” project.

Wrekin MP Mark Pritchard said: “This is fantastic news. I have worked tirelessly for many years to get this defence programme scrapped which was bad news for the nation as well as bad news for RAF Cosford and Shropshire.

“I am glad the Defence Secretary has listened to my petitions and arguments and has been brave enough to scrap the scheme.”

It is expected that the existing Military Training Sites will re-organise – perhaps with No 1 Radio School (Cosford) moving to Army Blandford, with other Aircraft Engineering Military Sites moving to RAF Cosford. All future plans will be announced next Spring 2011.

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