

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

Meeting: Council
Place: Online Meeting
Date: Tuesday 20 October 2020
Time: 10.30 am

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 12 October 2020. Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Kieran Elliott, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718504 or email kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

16 **Councillors' Questions (Pages 3 - 18)**

Questions from Cllr Ian Thorn and Cllr Clare Cape, together with responses, are attached.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 19 October 2020

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Wiltshire Council

Full Council

20 October 2020

From Councillor Ian Thorn, Calne Central Division

**To Cllr Philip Whitehead – Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for
Economic Development, MCI and Communications**

Question (20-24)

Do you agree that the distribution of five hundred and sixty thousand units of PPE to individuals and organisations in Wiltshire since the beginning of the pandemic was undertaken by staff of Wiltshire Council?

Do you agree that the distribution of 1242 digital devices to Wiltshire residents was undertaken by staff at Wiltshire Council?

Response

Yes, supported by the Conservative led Wiltshire Executive throughout this difficult period.

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Wiltshire Council

Council

20 October 2020

From Councillor Clare Cape, Chippenham Pewsham

To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, MCI and Communications

Question 20-25

Local people have been poorly informed about this HIF allocation and the associated plans; local Councillors have been excluded from the work being done by Wiltshire Council; and the early negotiation with Chippenham Town Council. What will be done now, **before** the expected consultation, to put this right and to inform and engage people, proactively and effectively, in preparing for the consultation? Many local people are understandably against having a development the size of Calne tacked onto the edge of Chippenham and cannot see how this proposal aligns in any way with Wiltshire Council's declaration of a climate emergency and the ecological problems we face.

Response:

The HIF process has been all about securing the opportunity to draw on Government funding for infrastructure should development come forward. As set out in the recent Cabinet report consultation will now take place on the proposed route for a distributor road. It will begin early in 2021.

Future growth of Chippenham will be considered as part of the Local Plan process, which will also be subject to consultation early in the new year.

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Wiltshire Council

Council

20 October 2020

From Councillor Clare Cape, Chippenham Pewsham

To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, MCI and Communications

Question 20-26

At the Chippenham Area Board on 07.10.20 I asked whether we are talking about a 'relief' road or a 'distributor' road to service the 7.5K houses and commercial space? The description makes a big difference to perceptions and expectations. And essentially – would people be living alongside a bypass or a rat-run of roundabouts and junctions with the associated required traffic calming measures. The answer given by Simon Hendey was that it is to be a 'distributor' road. In that case will there in fact be any positive impact on traffic elsewhere in Chippenham given that cars from 7.5K houses can be expected to add significantly to the traffic flows in and around Chippenham?

Response:

The initial traffic modelling undertaken to date for the road route options indicate there will be a positive impact on traffic congestion in the town centre. Subject to the identification of the preferred route following consultation, more detailed work will be undertaken.

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Wiltshire Council

Council

20 October 2020

From Councillor Clare Cape, Chippenham Pewsham

To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, MCI and Communications

Question 20-27

Can Chippenham as a market town support an additional 7.5K homes? Will Chippenham increasingly become a dormitory for commuters to Bristol, Bath, Swindon and London? That does not sound like a sustainable community or a scenario that local people want. At Cabinet on 13 October Philip Whitehead referred to the location of Chippenham as being near the railway and the M4; should we understand from this that Wiltshire Council see the future of our town as a commuter dormitory?

Response:

No, the Council does not see the future of Chippenham as a commuter dormitory. In planning for growth, it is important that consideration is given to the economic prospects of all Wiltshire's towns to avoid increases in net out commuting and align new homes to those towns with jobs and future job growth potential. Chippenham's location on the M4 corridor and main Bristol to London railway route makes the town an attractive one for employers with good economic prospects, although it is recognised that these strategic transport links also have implications for commuting. Work has been undertaken as part of the Local Plan Review (see [Wiltshire Local Plan Review Update - Strategy Development](#)) to consider the distribution of housing growth across Wiltshire over the period 2016 to 2036, this has looked at the alignment of homes and jobs at a housing market area level and identifies possible alternative development strategies for each of these. For Chippenham a scale of between 6,440 to 9765 homes is identified for further assessment.

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Wiltshire Council

Council

20 October 2020

From Councillor Clare Cape, Chippenham Pewsham

**To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for
Economic Development, MCI and Communications**

Question 20-28

Local people are concerned about if and when the necessary infrastructure such as schools and doctors will be available? (I'm not talking about the distributor road here.) What benefits to the existing local community will be delivered before the housing and commercial development is completed? Are any of these real benefits or just mitigations for some of the damage being planned?

Response:

This question drives at the heart of why the Council was so concerned to secure HIF funding. If development proceeds the HIF funding will ensure the major infrastructure such as the distributor road is in place thus allowing a plan led approach to subsequent development including the required community infrastructure provision.

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Wiltshire Council

Council

20 October 2020

From Councillor Clare Cape, Chippenham Pewsham

To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, MCI and Communications

Question 20-29

It is well recognised locally that there will be significant disbenefits in terms of climate and ecological damage. And yet it seems that it is 'too early' in the process to identify and appraise these, even though Philip Whitehead acknowledged at Cabinet on 13 October that it was right to draw attention to the question of environmental impact. So here is a starter for ten: increased carbon emissions; loss of local amenity including a large tract of unspoiled green space, river landscapes and productive agricultural land; potential increased flood risk; damage to the Chippenham / Calne cycle route; and damage to the repaired Pewsham section of the canal. The Marden and Avon valleys are valued for their biodiversity; this area will be significantly encroached on by the road and housing. Surrounding Parishes such as Bremhill and Derry Hill told us in the Chippenham Neighbourhood Plan early consultation that they want to see the 'green buffer' between Chippenham and these villages retained. Are any of these disbenefits mentioned in the case for the HIF or is the case biased in favour of this huge development?

Response:

The debate about environmental impact will rightly take place when there are development proposals. The current position concerns securing funding for infrastructure should development come forward.

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Wiltshire Council

Council

20 October 2020

From Councillor Clare Cape, Chippenham Pewsham

**To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for
Economic Development, MCI and Communications**

Question 20-30

What other options in terms of location for this number of houses were considered when putting the case for the HIF bid together? Against what criteria were the options appraised? Where is this published?

Response:

Future growth of Chippenham and options for development are being considered through the Local Plan process.

The HIF bid secures the opportunity for infrastructure funding should development proceed.

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Wiltshire Council

Council

20 October 2020

From Councillor Clare Cape, Chippenham Pewsham

**To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for
Economic Development, MCI and Communications**

Question 20-31

I have previously asked this at Cabinet and Wiltshire Full Council: What work has been undertaken by the project during the last 6 months to re-evaluate this proposal in the light of the climate emergency and the Covid-19 pandemic? Both of these are changing the business environment and the way people live, work, travel and use their town centres and transport. I have yet to receive an acknowledgement that this should be undertaken; and done before progressing the consultation. When will the project undertake this work and where will it be published?

Response:

If development proceeds the market will respond to the changing demand due to the climate emergency and COVID pandemic.

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