

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.