

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**13 October 2020**

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**Questions from Myla Watts**

**Agenda Item 10 – Chippenham Housing Infrastructure Fund**

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

**Question 1:**

There has been a lot of secrecy from WCC surrounding the HiF bid. My questions are: why have the public not been properly consulted, when will they be consulted and by what means will WCC ensure all households in Chippenham are consulted prior to any decisions being made?

**Response:**

The Council does not consult on bid submissions. The project will be consulting with all stakeholders and the general public in January 2021.

**Question 2:**

The report states:

***Environmental and Climate Change Considerations***

*33. There are no Environment and Climate Change Considerations to be made at this stage.*

*The terms of the GDA will require the Council to have full regard to all relevant environmental and climate change legislation.*

Building 2 huge new roads and 7500 new homes (which are likely not to be to Passivhaus standards and most will have at least 1 petrol car), will only serve to bring more traffic, congestion, CO2 and pollution into Chippenham and surrounds. At a time when climate change should be at the centre of all decisions made by those in power, environmental impacts should have been considered from the very beginning. My question is this – given that WCC has acknowledged the climate emergency with plans to be carbon neutral by 2030, the HIF bid will certainly be thrown out on environmental grounds because carbon neutrality does not entail

building new roads and more houses, destroying areas full of biodiversity. If you do not believe the bid will be thrown out on environmental grounds, why not?

**Response:**

The stage at which the proposal will be determined as with all other development proposals will be the planning application stage. A full Environmental Impact Assessment will support the planning application for any proposed development meeting the required threshold.