

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

3 November 2020

From Anne Henshaw (CPRE)

To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council

Item 5 – Public Participation

Under Agenda Item 5 of the meeting 13 October 2020 CPRE asked who will participate in the informal engagement of the revised scope and emerging strategy of the review of the Local Development Scheme and how this is different to what is referred to as public consultation.

We were given the response that the consultations will be public and open to anyone who wishes to respond.

Question 1

Please can the following be clarified:

The aim of the informal engagement in January

Those informed and invited to make comment

We note that in the article in the Gazette and Herald October 22 2020 entitled “Cash for Future Chippenham” it is stated that “consultation on the Local Plan will be carried out early in the new year”

Response

The cabinet report set out the proposed consultation programme concerning possible road routes subject to COVID restrictions.

The Consultation on the Local Plan planned for early in the new year has the aim of inviting views on what broad scale and distribution of growth we should plan for in the County over the period 2016-2036; what priorities we should tackle; and where development should take place. There will be material available to view for anyone who wishes to see and everyone is invited to comment

Question 2

Which one is to be carried out. An informal engagement or a consultation?

Does the Council agree that there is a considerable difference in the weight given to an informal engagement rather than a consultation.

The Council's web-site shows there will be informal engagement in January and public consultation on the Local Plan Review beginning in the third quarter of the year

Response

The Council will treat comments with equal weight. The different terminology simply reflects the legal stage at which plan preparation will have reached and the format of the consultation/engagement.

Early in the new year the Council will be at 'the regulation 18 stage' of plan preparation, which is specified to be informal and without a draft version of the Local Plan Review.

In the third quarter of next year plan preparation will have reached 'a regulation 19 stage' and will publish a draft version of the Local Plan Review. It is more formal in that comments can then go on to be considered by an independent inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.