

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**1 December 2020**

---

**From Darren Hopkins**

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

**Item 5 – Public Participation**

**Question 1**

What financial risks are the council expecting to carry and how has it arrived at this figure given that the route has not been agreed and therefore the costs not known? How can the council agree an unknown future financial risk?

**Response**

The Council has taken professional advice on the risks and made appropriate financial provision based on that advice which is included in the overall cost plan.

**Question 2**

Is the HIF funding paid pre or post construction? If it is post construction how is the council proposing to fund the initial outlay?

**Response**

The HIF funding covers an element of historic costs and the costs incurred to reach agreed milestones pre-construction as well as construction costs.

**Question 3**

As the HIF funding is linked to housing and, as yet, the council has no agreed development plans for housing in the area, what risk analysis has been completed to understand the chances of housing not being built, can the council share this? Does the council have to repay HIF funding if housing is not completed?

**Response**

The HIF funding is linked to housing delivery. If the housing delivery is not achieved repayment of HIF funding will be dependent upon the reasons why the housing delivery was not achieved and whether the reasons were considered a general or fundamental default under the HIF funding agreement.

