

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

2 February 2021

Agenda Item 5 – Public Participation and Questions from Councillors

Statement and Questions from Cllr Murry about the Chippenham HIF Consultation

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

Question 1 (21-66)

Isn't it the case, as stated by several councillors at Chippenham Town Council's recent full council meeting, that we need to consider what housing numbers and potential locations around the town, before contemplating whether we need a road, two major river crossings and canal crossings?

Response:

The Future Chippenham Team has secured substantial government funding to support delivery of key infrastructure subject to the statutory planning process and policy.

Question 2 (21-67)

Isn't this another example of the cart leading the horse on local planning, or thinly veiled attempt at predetermination of the local plan, which seems to have lost all semblance of democratic process and accountability?

Response:

As previously stated, there is no case of predetermination. The Future Chippenham team has secured substantial government funding to support delivery of key infrastructure subject to the statutory planning process .

Question 3 (21-68)

Isn't this a thinly disguised attempt to predetermine the Local Plan for Chippenham before people have even had a chance to consider the scale or growth and its potential location?

Response:

As previously stated, there is no case of predetermination. The Future Chippenham team has secured substantial government funding to support delivery of key infrastructure subject to the statutory planning process and policy.

The Local Plan Review process and its consultation will consider the allocation of sites for housing

Question 4 (21-69)

If as has been claimed, the housing numbers for Chippenham and all the other strategic sites are genuinely up for discussion, and local views will genuinely be taken into account, isn't it a huge risk and waste of public money to promote this road in advance of the Local Plan?

Response:

The HIF Grant supports the preliminary stages of the road design including any required consultation.

Question 5 (21-70)

Given that we are in a Climate Emergency and need to cut carbon emissions by more than 2/3 by 2030 nationally [Sixth Carbon Budget - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](https://theccc.org.uk), what are the carbon emissions associated with building a road, two extended concrete river crossings, canal crossings and the necessary large scale infrastructure, include extensive flood alleviation/urban drainage necessary for the Future Chippenham sites, and why haven't these been calculated, or even considered, up front before taking such a risky proposal forward?

Response:

The Future Chippenham programme distributor road options have been assessed in terms of the environmental impact. Further work will be completed at the appropriate stages of design.