

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

13 October 2020

Questions from Helen Stuckey

Agenda Item 10 – Chippenham Housing Infrastructure Fund

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

Statement:

There has been no effective public consultation, before the HIF bid or since. The first consultation in January to March 2021 presumes the public wants the HIF Bid to proceed and only consults on route options. There is a vast swathe of public opinion against this scheme. Surely the Council should not commit to this contract before it has established the level of public support for a vast undertaking.

Question 1:

Can the Cabinet confirm that any consultation carried out before submitting the bid did not include a wider public consultation (outside of stakeholders etc)

Response:

There was no wider public consultation prior to submitting the bid. The submission of the bid is to secure the opportunity to draw down funding if development proceeds.

Question 2:

Can the Council confirm that the HIF bid team did not consult with the MP for the land (James Gray MP) or with the Parish Council for the land (Bremhill Parish)?

Response:

We are unable to find a record of directly consulting with James Gray or Bremhill Parish Council

Question 3:

Section 2.1.3 of the Future Chippenham report states that a public engagement report has been published on the Council website. Has it, and if so where is it?

Response:

The report referred to is in draft form and will be published. The webpage is being developed and will also go live in the coming weeks