

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

13 October 2020

Questions from Isabel McCord

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:

The HIF bid and the grant of £75m does **not** have local support. This is because Wiltshire Council only consulted with some of the stakeholders identified in the Consultation Strategy. And it could be argued that some of those who were consulted had an obvious vested interest in the bid being successful. The residents of Chippenham, the parish councils to the east and south of Chippenham and their residents were not consulted. The relief roads and associated housing and employment development are not included in the current local plan for Chippenham (CSAP) and therefore it cannot be said that support for that plan shows support for Future Chippenham. Much of the road and associated development will be located in Bremhill Parish Council who were not consulted and any such development will be against the wishes of the residents as expressed in the parish's Neighbourhood Plan. The CAUSE petition which already has over 3000 signatures from people who are against the development. The GDA should not be signed until the local people affected have been consulted.

Question 1:

What is the mechanism for Wiltshire Council to recover the costs of building the road from the developers ? Will the recovery of these costs be legally binding on the developers ?

Response:

The recovery strategy will be dependant on requirements linked to the planning permission granted for development.

Question 2:

What's the evidence the relief roads will reduce traffic congestion in Chippenham when 7500 more houses are built ?

Response:

Traffic modelling for the Bid identified opportunities to reduce traffic congestion. Traffic modelling will be provided to support any road route options.

Question 3:

Which local plan will the planning application for the road be determined against? If it is to be a new local plan when will this be published for consultation by the public?

Response:

The planning application will be determined against the policies within the Wiltshire Local Plan. This comprises the adopted Local Plan and the policies within the emerging Local Plan. Appropriate weight will be attached to each by the planning authority (or inspector) according to the stage of the Local Plan review at the time the planning application is considered.

Question 4:

Under what circumstances would the road and associated development be abandoned and at what monetary cost to Wiltshire Council ?

Response:

Any proposed development and road provision will be subject to the Local Planning process and subject to planning permission. The availability of HIF funding does not determine the outcome of that process. It has been recommended that the Council enters into a GDA which includes general and fundamental default provisions so that the Council is protected against abortive costs.