

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

17 January 2012

Public Participation

Question from Kim Stuckey

**Pre-Submission Draft Wiltshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document
(Item 6)**

Question

Two thousand people in Chippenham previously objected to this scale of development. The two MPs for the town and surrounding area object to this scale of development. The Chippenham Vision survey showed that people wanted a market town and not this scale of development. A recent Chippenham Community Voice survey showed 98% of people questioned were opposed to this scale of development. How does Wiltshire Council justify imposing this scale of development on the people of Chippenham?

Response

It is recognised that concerns have been raised by the local community regarding the scale of growth at Chippenham. As a result of this, extensive consultation has been undertaken with the local community and the level of growth revised with a reduction from the 5,500 new homes proposed in the Wiltshire 2026 (October 2009) consultation document to 4,000 new homes now proposed. Chippenham is one of the few communities where growth has been reduced. Core Strategies must be based on robust and credible evidence and there is no justification to lower the scale of growth further at the town.

Wiltshire Council projections estimate that in order for the current population of Chippenham community area, including their offspring to have sufficient accommodation by 2026, a minimum of further 3,100 homes would be required to be built between 2006 and 2026. This requirement for homes results from: newly forming young households as the children of today age; household breakdowns as families or couples separate and the extended life expectancy. The extended life expectancy has the effect that a larger proportion of homes are occupied by single elderly persons which results in these homes not being available for larger younger households and creates a need for further homes to be built, rather than recycled from the existing stock. The figure of 3,100 homes provides no allowance for migration, which will occur as we live in a free market economy. 4,000 new homes is considered to be an appropriate balance.