

Wiltshire Council

Western Area Planning Committee

14 October 2015

**Questions from Cllr Trevor Carbin
Response from Associate Director – Alistair Cunningham**

Question

1. Is Wiltshire Council engaged in any pre-application discussions concerning fracking in West Wiltshire?

Response

Wiltshire Council is not engaged in any pre-application discussions concerning planning applications for hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') in Wiltshire. The Government's planning practice guidance advises that developers/operators will engage in pre-application discussion with local communities, the Council and statutory consultees after the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has issued any Petroleum and Exploration and Development Licence (PEDL). No licences have to date been issued for Wiltshire.

Question

2. Taking into account government 'advice' and the WC scheme of delegation, has consideration been given to how any such applications would be decided?

Response

Any planning application for hydraulic fracturing is classified by the government as a planning application for minerals extraction. All applications for mineral extraction that are called to committee are assigned by the Council's Scheme of Delegation specific to Planning to the Strategic Planning Committee for determination. The Secretary of State has the general power to direct that any particular planning application should be called in for determination by the Secretary of State.