

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

9 June 2020

Question from Councillor Clare Cape – about Future Chippenham Project

Agenda Item 5 – Public Participation

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

Statement

There is a strong case for revising and reworking the business case for the HIF bid for Chippenham following the huge changes brought about by Covid-19; local opinion (as evidenced by other questions today and previously) and the commitment to action in the face of the climate and ecological emergency.

Changes to the way in which people live, work and travel to the ‘new normal’, mean that it is no longer appropriate to assume that a distributor road is necessary. And there is insufficient attention to and evidence of appraising a full range of options for providing housing in Wiltshire.

There are significant doubts locally that there are any economic or societal benefits and significant concerns about the environmental impact to Chippenham and the surrounding area.

Question

Would the Cabinet please provide assurance that the proposal will be looked at again, comprehensively, **before** further consultation?

Response

As mentioned elsewhere the Council is changing the resourcing of the Future Chippenham programme in light of the impact and consequences of Covid 19. Simon Hendey, the Director of Housing and Commercial is taking over the lead for the Programme. A review of this programme, as part of a review of all programmes as well as any changed requirements from Central Government, is taking place which may result in changes being made. Any such changes will be communicated as and when they are known. However, this does not mean that this program will be changed as it is in response to the requirements placed on this authority by government