

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**2 February 2021**

**Agenda Item 5 – Public Participation and Questions from Councillors**

**Statement and Questions from Ian James – Bremhill Parish Councillor  
– Part 2**

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

**Statement 1**

The HIF bid reference CSF 3 states that 7,500 houses to be built, however later in the section it references increases up to the period of 20 years.

**Question 1 (21-53)**

Clearly the 7,500 houses is just the start of a massive urban expansion of Chippenham which will realise over 20,000 houses. Was Chippenham Town Council made aware of these huge number of houses to be placed to the east and south of Chippenham?

These houses will be placed adjacent to the River Avon flood Plain.

**Response:**

The HIF bid identified the potential to deliver up to 7500 homes over a period of 20+ years.

**Question 2 (21-54)**

Additionally, it quotes 20 hectares of business land to be made available, but the Local plan on review quotes just 9. Does this mean that a doubling of industrial and office use will be placed in the urban expansion?

**Response:**

The Local Plan consultation proposes 5ha additional employment for Chippenham (see 'Planning for Chippenham' document). This is based on evidence set out in the Employment Land Review 2018 by Hardisty Jones Associates and is one of the supporting documents available as part of the Local Plan consultation. The concept plans 'Planning for Chippenham' shows proposed land uses that include 5 hectares and 3 hectares of employment on two of the preferred sites. The purpose of the consultation is to seek feedback and comments on the proposals and the questions ask "What do think of this scale of growth?" and "Do you agree with the location and amount of employment provided on Sites 1 and 2?".

**Question 3 (21-55)**

Wiltshire Council needs to be truthful in the consultation that is currently being undertaken, is it the intention of the Council and the new Venture Capital Company to drive through development which is far larger than being proposed in the Local Plan in the future?

**Response**

The Council is consulting on current plans. Any future proposals would be subject to the required consultation. The Council is investigating a joint venture partner for development of its land holdings subject to the outcome of the local plan review.

**Question 4 (21-56)**

Has Wiltshire Council resolved the technical issues on the Chippenham Consultation when members of the public were unable to log on to the consultation, this issue meant Councillors and the public were unable to take part?

**Response:**

On the basis that you are referring to the Local Plan consultation, we had 130 people successfully attend the Chippenham Local Plan event, which is a high turnout compared to similar face-to-face events we have held in the past, and any technical issues affected a very small number of users. We have held 15 Local Plan events so far, attended by more than 940 people, and there were no reported widespread issues.

**Question 5 (21-57)**

In view of these difficulties will the Council run another date for consultation for those who were unable to join the consultation for Chippenham?

**Response:**

We have no plans to rerun this event at present. The presentation from the event has been published on the Council's website so people can view it and a note of the questions asked at all the meetings will be made available in due course.

All the Local Plan consultation documents, background information, and the consultation form are available to view at: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-policy-local-plan-review-consultation](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-policy-local-plan-review-consultation)