Wiltshire Council

Full Council

16 May 2023

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Item 7 – Public Participation

From Celia Beckett (Hilperton Area Action Group)

To Cllr Nick Botterill – Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management and Strategic Planning

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Background

Central government is now suggesting that housing targets should be only a starting point, with local circumstances also taken into account in the planning of an area.

Question (P23-08)

> Does the Council agree with the Government's intention to give greater weight to Neighbourhood Plans and to extend protection for Neighbourhood Plans from 2 to 5 years?

Response:

> The Council has welcomed the proposed change to paragraph 14 of the national planning policy framework to increase the protection to be given to neighbourhood plans that was put forward by Government through the recent consultation on reforms to national planning policy.

Question (P23-09)

> If so, does the Council consider that large-scale development in the open countryside outside the Neighbourhood Plan allocations, where infrastructure provision is at an inadequate level, constitutes unsustainable development?

Response:

> The development plan for Wiltshire includes both the Local Plan, prepared by Wiltshire Council as Local Planning Authority, and any neighbourhood plans that have been prepared by parish and town councils. Neighbourhood plans need to be in line with, and not conflict with, both national and Local Plan policy
>
> Wiltshire's adopted Local Plan includes the Wiltshire Core Strategy and accompanying Chippenham and Wiltshire Site Allocation Plans. These contain allocations for large scale development in what could be said to be the

open countryside outside of an existing settlement. In preparing the Wiltshire Local Plan Review consideration is being given to where additional new greenfield allocations may be needed outside of existing urban areas to plan for the new homes and businesses that Wiltshire's growing community needs. Such growth is being planned so that it is supported by adequate infrastructure.