

# AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

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**Meeting:** Cabinet  
**Place:** Kennet Room - County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN  
**Date:** Tuesday 9 February 2016  
**Time:** 9.30 am

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**The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 1 February 2016. Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.**

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This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

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6 **Public participation and Questions from Councillors (Pages 3 - 6)**

- Question from Richard Hames
- Question from Ian James

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**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**9 January 2016**

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## **Public Participation – Chippenham Sites DPD**

### **Question from Mr Richard Hames**

1. Could you please confirm that the council agrees with the flood analysis provided by the environmental agency at the September public meeting and at the inquiry in November.
2. If there were brown field sites which could have say 400 homes built on them would you please confirm that they would be taken into consideration in the required number of houses of not less than 1935. So if brown field sites for 400 homes were found the number of houses needed would fall to not less than 1535.
3. A number of sites have recently received planning permission for houses to be built on in adjacent towns in the North & West HMA as Chippenham was not able to meet its 5.25 year plan, for example Calne and Corsham. Will the number of not less than 1935 be reduced accordingly.
4. It seems very unreasonable that the public have until I think 11th February to respond on the request to build 700 houses in area B and 1500 houses in area C. Would it not make more sense for this decision to be delayed until the council has produced its report later this year and consultation has been received from the public.
5. The council has to comply with the timetable laid down by central government in deciding whether to grant planning consent to Chippenham 2020s application for 1500 houses in area C.

If the council decides to grant consent for building on land to the east of Chippenham prior to the inspectors decision at the end of 2016, would the council confirm that in such a case they will refuse to sell land owned by them to C2020 unless the inspector has given his findings and has confirmed development may take place on such land.

If the council fail to give such an undertaking the council is effectively bypassing the inspector so that it can sell its own land for profit and is abusing its position as both landowner and issuer of planning consent. This cannot be correct. The council can not allow building on its own land unless the inspector agrees that it should be part of the Chippenham site allocation

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**Public Participation**

**Question from Mr Ian James, Bremhill Parish Councillor**

**Question to Councillor John Thomson, Cabinet member for Communities, Campuses, Area Boards and Broadband**

Please can the Cabinet member inform Council when those in the rural areas of Wiltshire will receive an acceptable broadband speed.

At the present time there are those in rural areas receiving just .2mbps when BT Open Reach has suggested that the minimum of 4 - 6 mgbps should be available.

It appears that those within 700 metres of a cabinet can have 30mgps, but the further you are away from the cabinet the performance drops off as the connection is still copper.

This poor performance is hampering those businesses working from home, as many as 50% of households in the rural community work from home, and farmers are especially disadvantaged, many are having to deal with DEFRA after midnight to get their work done.

This is of particular concern to those living in the rural parts of Bremhill parish, I am sure this is also of concern to many others living in other rural parishes.

Please will the cabinet member assure Council that every effort is being made to support the rural economy, and what timeframe can users expect 4-6mgbps across all of the county?

**Question to Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property and Waste**

On 15th December 2015 in response to question 13 his response was wrong. Please will he clarify the exact content of paragraph 3.4 of the Scott Wilson Report on Ground Water Flooding of November 2011 for land to the east of Chippenham, known as Area C1 & 2.

I refer to the last paragraph of his answer which uses the word "prior" to the consideration of development proposals.

The correct statement from para 3.4 reads "It is not sufficient to rely on the work undertaken by developers through the planning application process, unless long term monitoring (several years) is one of the conditions when granting planning permission"

Does he agree that this is the correct statement from para 3.4?

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**Note: question 13 to Cabinet on 15 December 2015 as referred to above for ease of reference as follows:**

Is it true that the Scott Wilson ground water flooding report for the River Avon and Marden stated that the Council should not rely on a developer's report, but should undertake several years of hydrological testing during any planning stage?

**Response:**

As part of work commissioned for a Surface Water Management Plan, Scott Wilson prepared an intermediate assessment of ground water flood susceptibility. It states that a developer's survey of groundwater levels could usefully be supplemented by longer term monitoring. It says:

"It would be advisable for the Council, in combination with the Environment Agency, to begin long term monitoring of the Cornbrash Formation, Kellaways Sand Member and superficial aquifer groundwater levels. This data would also be useful for understanding groundwater / surface water interactions, which is important when considering the design of fluvial flood defences." (para 3.4 An Intermediate assessment of ground water flood susceptibility, Scott Wilson, November 2011)

Scott Wilson's finalised advice does not suggest a requirement for several years hydrological study being required prior to the consideration of development proposals. (See question 5). The Environment Agency do not consider there is an enhanced risk in Chippenham due to ground water flooding."