

WRITTEN QUESTIONS –EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL

22 SEPTEMBER 2016

1. CABINET - 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

MINUTE - 62

Questions submitted by Councillor Mrs J Roach and the response of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration.

a) What was the date of the original call for land?

Response: May – June 2013. The last public consultation (on the pre-submission plan) took place February to March 2015. Cabinet were mindful of the length of time since this in their recommendation to go out to consultation prior to submission irrespective of whether land at J27 is allocated.

b) How much has been spent on consultants in relation to the local plan? In October 2015 this was estimated at £100k.

Response: Since then a further £85,000 has been spent with a further £68,000 committed towards the technical flood modelling /highway work at J28 for which invoices have not yet been received.

c) In October 2015 I asked whether the Council would be at risk in relation to the Housing and Planning Bill 2015. The response to that question was that 'we already have an adopted local plan place and many LA's do not. The current timetable is for the emerging local plan to be adopted by January 2017 which would be in line with the Government target in any case. The latest advice from the Planning Advisory Service is that we are not likely to be at risk.'

Given that circumstances have changed considerably since I asked that question. We now have clear evidence that the lack of a five year land supply is putting the Council at risk of unallocated land being allocated via the Planning Inspectorate at appeal. I now ask the same question in two parts,

1, What is the risk, in relation to the Housing and Planning Bill if we delay the submission of the local plan?

2, What is the risk, in relation to the Housing and Planning Bill if we submit the local plan as soon as possible?

Response: The degree of plan risk associated with the Housing and Planning Act 2016 is considered the same between submitting the plan in November 2016 and submitting it at the end of March 2017. Issues raised within the Act in relation to starter homes, self and custom build will need to be addressed at examination irrespective of submission timescale.