

# Cabinet of 22 June 2021

## Public Questions

### 1. Question from Linda Poulsen

Preamble – DO13

Historic England's consultation response letter (15/03/2021) to draft Local Plan, specifically DOR 13 & the implications of LUC's HIA:

"Historic England has reserved its position ... we consider that further work is needed in response to the Heritage Impact Assessment's conclusions ... [the work to] include *an options appraisal for the routing of the link road ... taking into account the HIA's recommendations on the position of the southernmost boundary and the layout, height and design of development including the use of strategic landscaping, sightlines and key verified views.*" (My italics)

Question:

When will Historic England's "strongly recommended" Heritage Topic Paper, particularly the options appraisal for the routing of the link road, be available to the public?

### 2. Question from Linda Poulsen

Preamble – DOR13

In 2018 Wessex Water confirmed that a significant part of DOR 13 lies within a groundwater source protection zone:

"This development represents a risk to Eagle Lodge Source both from a water quality and a recharge perspective."

The Environment Agency also expressed concerns & jointly with Wessex Water advised Dorset Council that:

"A hydrological risk assessment should be undertaken which must demonstrate that the proposal (including construction phase) poses either no risk to groundwater and the aquifer(s) feeding the water source or that any risk can be successfully mitigated."

In addition to concerns about Dorchester's water supply, Dorset Council also required further information about sewerage & flooding.

Question:

When will the Hydrological Risk Assessment, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment & documentation regarding sewerage be available to the public?

### 3. Questions from Mike Allen

I would like to ask the Cabinet to express their view of the importance and future of Dorset's Green Belt, and whether it aligns with Government policy.

The recent White Paper, "Planning for the Future" (p28) states the Government's view. Let me summarise:

- *The existing policy for protecting the Green Belt should remain (para 2.26).*
- *The (standard method) methodology does not **yet** adjust for land constraints, including Green Belt (para 2.29), but we're considering how to do this.*
- *The requirement for housing arising from the standard method should have regard to practical limitations such as the Green Belt (para 2.25).*

Clearly the Government do not intend the standard method to be a justification for releasing green spaces from the Green Belt for development. Instead they regard the Green Belt to be a constraint on development and a limitation on local housing target numbers.

Giving evidence to Parliament's Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee, which reported recently, the Minister said that: "...we can achieve our building ambitions **without encroaching** on important green spaces that we know communities, yours and mine, feel very strongly about." (Q156)

The policy in Dorset recently appears to be opposite to this. The Council's draft Local Plan sees the standard method's housing target, and consequential development, as a limitation on the future of the Green Belt. The Council apparently has taken the view (so far) that the future extent of the green spaces in the Green Belt are to be constrained by the standard method, not the other way round.

Is the Cabinet fully aware of their marked divergence from Government policy on this?

### 4. Questions from Gerald Duke

According to a recent Position Paper on the Local Plan submitted to the March 25th committee of the Place and Resource Scrutiny Committee, "Members will be asked to approve the 'publication' version of the plan in the autumn."

#### **Question:**

Which Council body, bodies or committees will be asked to approve the 'publication' version of the plan or will all members have an opportunity to determine it?