

**Cabinet – Thursday 16 December 2021**

## **Written question from Cllr Stephen Hendry to the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Corporate Resources and Transformational Change**

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July, I submitted a written question ([MQ 10/21](#)) to the Cabinet, asking about the proposed allocation of site HA046 (Crossways) in the Draft Island Planning Strategy. My question was in two parts, and asked the “*relevant Cabinet Members to reply*”. Unfortunately, the first part of my question was not answered, with the statement being given that, “*this is not a question that the Local Planning Authority can provide a response for – the council as landowner / applicant will need to*”.

However, I have still not received a response from the council in its capacity as landowner/applicant. I, therefore, ask this part of the question again (in an updated form); this time directly specifically to the Cabinet Member for Resources.

In December 2019, the Planning Committee unanimously voted to defer consideration of the Crossways planning application (19/00804/OUT) until they were provided with more information, including the number of houses that would be built on the site. However, this information was not subsequently provided, and the application has remained in limbo ever since (now for 24 months).

The applicant – iWight Developments – is now effectively defunct, as it was operating under the auspices of the then partnership between the Isle of Wight Council and Public Sector Partnership, which was set up in 2015 (under the then independent administration) before the Conservative administration decided to end it in 2020.

I am concerned that the planning application for Crossways – which has never formally been withdrawn or determined – may have been used to justify the continued inclusion of the Crossways site, as an allocation within the Draft Island Planning Strategy. As the planning portal shows, nothing has happened in relation to this application since December 2019 and therefore it cannot be treated as a live planning application in any meaningful sense. The applicant no longer exists and the Isle of Wight Council (as part of that former partnership) should now take steps to withdraw this defunct application.

**I would therefore like to ask the Cabinet Member for Resources whether the current administration will, now two years from when this planning application (19/00804/OUT) was put on hold, commit to withdrawing it and if not, why not?**

## ***Response***

The Council as joint applicant via the PSP-LLP partnership needs to maintain the application at this point due to legal negotiations ongoing with PSP in its dissolution and to not compromise the council’s position in these. There is no direct relationship between this application and the site’s inclusion in the current draft Island Plan. Comments on the draft plan are still being considered.