

Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 12 April 2022

Written question from Julie Newell of Totland Bay to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Why is the Freshwater settlement boundary being extended in spite of residents & parish council continually objecting and could you assure me that this proposal does not conflict with the advice from the Council's Task & Finish Group?

Response

Please see the response to PQ11/22 in relation to the issue of settlement boundary extension being taken forward within the Draft IPS.

In relation to the issue of the content of the Draft IPS being different to comments made during the consultation (i.e. an objection made but no change to address that objection), the plan-making process has to weigh up a wide range of factors on an island wide basis in line with national planning legislation and form a balanced, evidenced based judgement. It is in this balancing judgement that comments made during a consultation period may not directly influence a change in content to the plan as other issues and factors, or indeed national planning legislation, may make such a change unsound, inconsistent and heighten the risk of the plan being found unsound at public examination.

All comments received are reviewed and the absence of a change to directly address a particular comment does mean that the comment has been ignored.

The Task & Finish Group report on the Draft IPS was published in December 2021 and included 19 recommendations / suggestions, a number of which have been directly taken forward in the Draft IPS, including the addition of new strategic policies on the IOW Biosphere, Affordable Housing and Infrastructure, together with additional wording strengthening policies and supporting text on affordable housing (H5) and rural exception sites (H7).

The T&FG report mentioned settlement boundary extensions in relation to the content of the Summary document of the previous Draft IPS, recommending that future summary versions are more explicit on this issue and this point has been noted and will help inform the content of the next Summary document that will accompany the Regulation 19 period of representation.