

Vale of White Horse Local Plan (Part 2) 2011-2031

Examination Hearings

Statement by Oxfordshire County Council

Matter 3

Overall housing provision in the Plan and its distribution between sub-areas

(This matter does not include detailed discussion at site specific level)

Wednesday afternoon 4 July 2018

Questions:

3.1 Is the proposal in the LPP2 to allocate 1,400 additional homes in the South East Vale Sub Area to support the economic growth of the Science Vale consistent with the strategy in the LPP1, supported by proportionate evidence and deliverable?

3.2 Is the proposal in the LPP2 not to allocate additional sites in the Western Vale Sub Area consistent with the strategy in the LPP1 and supported by proportionate evidence?

3.3 Taking the objectively assessed housing needs of the Vale and the unmet needs of Oxford together, is the overall housing provision in the LPP2, its distribution between sub areas and its various components, consistent with the strategy in the LPP1, supported by proportionate evidence and deliverable?

3.4 How would the overall provision of housing in the district be monitored to ensure delivery? Is the housing supply ring fence for the Science Vale area still relevant and necessary?

3.5 Does the LPP2 provide for the housing needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People as envisaged by, or in a manner consistent with, Policy CP27 of the LPP1?

Response

1. Questions 3.1 and 3.2: The 1,400 proposed homes in the South-East Vale Sub-Area are made up of 1,000 at Harwell Campus and 400 at North West Grove. The Inspector's question 3.1 is directed to the principle of allocating in the South-East Vale Sub-Area and question 3.2 is about the principle of not allocating in the Western Vale Sub-Area. Given the amount of growth already proposed in the Western Vale Sub-Area and beyond in Swindon, the County Council is supportive of no further allocations in the Western Vale Sub-Area in this Local Plan Part 2 given the capacity of the highway network, particularly the A420. In respect of the South-East Vale Sub-Area, the County Council has focused on the specific sites rather than the area, but we acknowledge that the number of 1,400 houses in this sub-area is related to the 1,400 houses which were removed from the Part 1 plan proposals at Harwell Campus (para 2.96 of LPP2). The County Council is supportive of Districts allocating sufficient land to enable confidence that housing requirements will be met in accordance with the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. Our comments on the two sites proposed for allocation in the South-East Vale Sub-Area are contained in our Matter 6 and Matter 7 statements.
2. Oxfordshire County Council is seeking to attend the hearing should the Inspector have any queries to direct to the County Council in respect of the Matter 3 questions.