



**Vale of White Horse Local Plan Part One:  
Strategic Sites and Policies**  
Publication Stage Representation Form

Ref:

(For official  
use only)

Name of the Local Plan to which this representation relates:

Vale of White Horse Local Plan

Response form for the Vale of White Horse strategic planning policy document, the Local Plan Part one. Please return to Planning Policy, Vale of White Horse District Council, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh, Wallingford, OX10 8ED or email [planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) no later than Friday 19 December 2014 by 4.30 pm precisely.

This form has two parts –

Part A – Personal Details

Part B – Your representation(s). Please fill in a separate sheet for each representation you wish to make.

## Part A

### 1. Personal Details\*

*\*If an agent is appointed, please complete only the Title, Name and Organisation boxes below but complete the full contact details of the agent in 2.*

### 2. Agent's Details (if applicable)

Title

Dr

First Name

Keith

Last Name

Beswick

Job Title

(where relevant)

Organisation

(where relevant)

Address Line 1

Lime Tree House

Line 2

High Street

Line 3

Harwell

Line 4

Didcot

Post Code

OX11 0EX

Telephone Number

E-mail Address

(where relevant)

## Part B – Please use a separate sheet for each representation

Name or Organisation :

3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

Paragraph

Policy

Core  
policies  
4&5

Proposals Map

4. Do you consider the Local Plan is :

4.(1) Legally compliant

Yes

x

No

4.(2) Sound (Positively Prepared,  
Effective and Justified)

Yes

No

x

4 (3) Complies with the Duty to co-operate

Yes

x

No

*Please mark as appropriate.*

The Spatial Strategies in Core Policy 4, and Core Policy 5 that flows from it for South East Vale, are based on the exceptionally high forecasts of housing need from the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). This has been much criticised by the public, organisations (such as CPRE) and politicians alike. In an independent critique of the SHMA commissioned by CPRE Oxfordshire, a leading planning expert, Professor Alan Wenban-Smith, has concluded that the SHMA's estimate is likely to be 'grossly overstated by a factor of over two'.

From these criticisms Keep Harwell Rural understands that:

The SHMA housing need figure is more than two and a half times what the Government's official household projections would suggest, making it highly questionable;

The SHMA makes many dubious adjustments to official statistics which add over 20,000 houses to its forecast of need for Oxfordshire. The housing need for the Vale increased from 13,130 to 20,560. In the Harwell area the increase was even more dramatic, from 2,150 to 5,350.

Much of the forecast of need is based on another forecast that 85,000 new jobs will be created, attracting more people to move to the County. The forecast for the Vale is 23,000 new jobs by 2031 (paragraph 4.17) of which 15,850 are forecast for the Science Vale area in South East Vale (paragraph 4.27). However some of these figures seem themselves just to be based on questionable hopes of aggressive economic growth and house-building rates and have not been subject to public consultation or independent scrutiny.

However, we are not aware of any response to these criticisms or any attempt to instigate an independent review of the SHMA, and there is no evidence that the Vale has given them appropriate consideration.

The policies as they stand are therefore unsound because they are not justified.

6 To make Core Policies 4 and 5 sound they must have a housing needs basis that has been more critically examined than the SHMA, and has addressed the criticisms of the CPRE report. We would like to see the numbers and sites from the draft Local Plan of February 2013 replacing those in this version. Even if higher numbers are confirmed as the most reliable forecast, there should still be a mechanism for adjusting the plans should reality not match up to the forecast, or if infrastructure to cope with the large increase in housing cannot be delivered.

**Please note** your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested modification, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation at publication stage.

**After this stage, further submissions will be only at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.**

7. If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the examination?

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**No**, I do not wish to participate at the oral examination

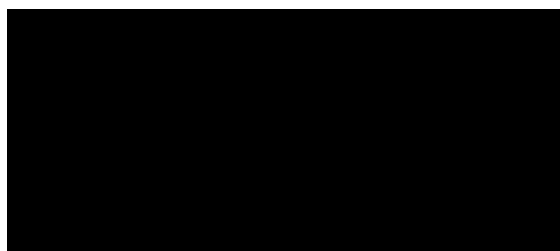
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**Yes**, I wish to participate at the oral examination

8. If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:

**Please note** the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the oral part of the examination.

Signature:



Date:

18/12/14

