

Comment

Consultee	Mr Stephen Biggs (870007)
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Address	42 Woodley Close Abingdon OX14 1YJ
Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Mr Stephen Biggs
Comment ID	LPPub524
Response Date	16/12/14 20:30
Consultation Point	Core Policy 8: Spatial Strategy for Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area (View)
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.2
Q1 Do you consider the Local Plan is Legally Compliant?	Yes
Q2 Do you consider the Local Plan is Sound (positively prepared, effective and Justified)	No
If your comment(s) relate to a specific site within a core policy please select this from the drop down list.	North of Abingdon-on-Thames

Q4 Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible. If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

I consider the plan is unsound. It states Abingdon has excellent public transport links with Oxford but in my opinion this is incorrect. I commute by bus from North Abingdon to Oxford. There is only one main regular bus service run by Oxford Bus Company - there are no train links. I think it is incorrect to describe a single bus service as being "excellent". During rush hour this service is running over capacity already - by the time a bus reaches North Abingdon from at rush hour there is regularly no seats left and frequently no standing room either. Returning from Oxford to North Abingdon in the evening I frequently have to wait for a subsequent bus as there is not room on the first one. In addition the bus service uses the A34 and so any issues with the A34 means journey times can easily double

as you are stuck in traffic. In summary Abingdon's public transport links with Oxford are poor - a single bus service already struggling to cope with demand and frequently delayed by the A34 traffic issues

Q5 Please set out what modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to the test you have identified above where this relates to soundness. (NB Please note that any non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why this modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

To make the plan sound Abingdon's public transport links with Oxford should not be described as excellent but identified as in need of improvement and consequent amendments to the plan should be made with this in mind.

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.

Q6 If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the examination? No - I do not wish to participate at the oral examination