

## Comment

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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Dr Paul Birkby
Comment ID	LPPub1116
Response Date	19/12/14 13:43
Consultation Point	Core Policy 3: Settlement Hierarchy ( <a href="#">View</a> )
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.1

**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.** South of East Hanney

If you think your comment relates to the DtC, this is about how we have worked with the Duty to Cooperate bodies (such as neighbouring planning authorities)

**Q3 Do you consider the Local Plan complies with the Duty to Co-operate?** Yes

**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.**

The Local Plan 2031 is unsound and is unjustified in allocating a strategic site to East Hanney because it has been incorrectly classified as a larger village. The reasons for this conclusion are:

- 1 The most reasonable measure of the size of a village is population. When compared to the population of other villages in the Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area, based on the 2011 Census the 'smaller village' of North Hinksey had a population of 4535, Appleton 915 and Sunningwell 904. East Hanney had a population of 748. All the 'larger villages' have a significantly larger population than East Hanney, with Steventon being the next smallest with a population of 1485.
- 2 Determining whether a village is larger based on the services it has is misleading and the scoring system that is being used is arbitrary in nature. This makes the plan unsound.
- 3 Even using this scoring system, as documented in the "Town and Village Facilities Study Update Feb 2014", East Hanney should not be classed as larger because:
  - 1 the mobile library service is being stopped
  - 2 the shop, which includes the the post office, is a very small facility that is volunteer run with very limited opening hours, and limited stock
  - 3 the tennis club is a members only facility.
- 4 Removing any one of these from the scoring system for East Hanney would re-classify it as a smaller village in this system.
- 5 Regardless of a scoring system, classifying East Hanney as a Larger Village based on services is incorrect when it does not have a commercial shop, a GP, leisure facilities, facilities for families or teenagers or a secondary school. The primary school, with an annual intake of 15, is already at capacity.

**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.**

East Hanney should be re-classified as a smaller village and therefore should only be considered for smaller scale housing development in Part 2 of the Local Plan

**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