

Comment

Consultee	Mr R Garrett (831316)
Email Address	
Address	11 Rose Avenue Abingdon Unknown
Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Mr R Garrett
Comment ID	LPPub4177
Response Date	26/01/15 11:32
Consultation Point	Core Policy 8: Spatial Strategy for Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area (View)
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Email
Version	0.3

Q1 Do you consider the Local Plan is Legally Compliant? No

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. N/A

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.

Abingdon is the oldest continuously occupied town in the UK with many historic features and a Historic Market Town. It's town centre is already being overwhelmed by traffic and previous developments.

Further urban sprawl into Green Belt land would destroy its unique character. The open high land to the north of the town currently forms an attractive gateway and this has been recognised and guarded in previous Abingdon plans. The proposed development in North Abingdon would destroy its sense of place rather than create it. Public Footpaths into neighbouring villages and countryside will be overwhelmed by the scale of development.

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.

It is also noted that the plan suggests extending the Green Belt to the west of Abingdon. It appears to me that the land to the west, which is not currently Green Belt but contains the hardly used Abingdon Airfield would be a better place for development being already well connected to the A34 (and crucially on the other side of the A34 from Abingdon); being closer to some areas of employment within Abingdon and to the south; and not between Oxford and Abingdon. When questioned at a public meeting the council response was that this was not an option as the airfield is MOD land. The surrounding land was not commented on.

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? Yes - I wish to participate at the oral examination

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.

Q7 If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:

Whilst not necessary as I am sure the Inspector will consider these submissions, I would value hearing the process and would be willing to answer any additional questions.