

## Comment

Consultee	Mr David Hastings (872880)
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Address	68 Lindsay Drive Abingdon OX14 2RT
Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Mr David Hastings
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Consultation Point	Core Policy 33: Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility ( <a href="#">View</a> )
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**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.** 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.**

Placing housing to the north and north-west of Abingdon when the main employment opportunities are expected to be south of the town will place additional stresses on the road network. The distances

are such that walking and cycling are not really an option, and public transport does not serve these routes.

It is already the case that the A34 becomes severely congested at peak times, and also at other times if there is an road traffic incident (which are becoming increasingly frequent). The lack of alternative routes exacerbates this. Recent (December 2014) announcements about A34 'improvements' will not help this situation.

The proposal does not in any way help with access to Oxford. It already takes an hour to travel the 6 miles from north Abingdon to the centre of Oxford at peak times, and the large number of additional vehicles on the A34 from the new developments will increase this significantly.

**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.**

Mitigation measures of a full diamond junction at Lodge Hill, widening of the A34 and an additional river crossing to the south of Abingdon will require substantial investment well beyond the scope of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy). This is unlikely to be forthcoming in the present regime of cuts in local government funding.

It would be more sensible to locate the additional housing required by jobs growth nearer the employment sites, especially as it is a goal of the Plan to encourage the use of more sustainable means of commuting (walking, cycling and public transport) which is clearly impractical if the housing is located to the north of Abingdon.

**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