

Comment

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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Mr Martin Hatton
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Consultation Point	Core Policy 13: The Oxford Green Belt (View)
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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. North of Abingdon-on-Thames

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? No

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.

Re: Core policy 13 Oxford Green Belt, Core Policy 8 - Spatial Strategy for Abingdon & Oxford fringe Sub Area.

The Part 1 plan identifies a site to the North West of Radley for 240 houses and also intends to take out of the Oxford Green Belt (In Part 2) the triangular field bounded by Twelve Acre Drive, Radley Road and Peachcroft Estate, which both help to **seperate the built-up areas of Radley village and Abingdon** . I am concerned that once land is removed from the Green Belt it will be at imminent risk of development, even if not immediately identified as a strategic site.

The Plan is inconsistent with planning guidance and government policies on the protection of Green Belts. The NPPF makes it very clear that a Green Belt boundary may only be altered only in 'exceptional circumstances'.

Recent guidance (6 March 2014) states that: 'Unmet housing need is unlikely to outweigh the harm to the Green Belt and other harm to constitute the "very special circumstances" justifying inappropriate development on a site within Green Belt.

The Government's position remains clear, that Green Belt's fundamental aim is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. **These two sites if removed from the Green Belt will be developed into housing sites that will permananetly destroy the pleasant and already narrow tract of land between the two distinct areas of Radley Village and Abingdon-on-Thames.**

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.

Use areas not currently holding Green Belt status such as South of Abingdon or the Airfield to satisfy housing needs, where there is space to build and provide the supporting facilities and infrastructure.

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