

Comment

Consultee	Hazel Oliver (832467)
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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Hazel Oliver
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Consultation Point	Core Policy 4: Meeting Our Housing Needs (View)
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Files	DRAFT Objection letter to the Vale 1 April 2014.docx
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

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 object to the Vale of White Horse District Council's development sites proposal to allow 20,560 new homes to be built within the Vale. My objections and concerns are as follows:

The Council is responding to the housing figures produced by the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment. This was a piece of research commissioned by all five Oxfordshire District Councils and the County Council to look at housing requirements.

I object that the housing numbers are based not just on the needs of existing Oxfordshire residents or even on Office of National Statistics predictions of growth for the county. Instead they are strongly influenced by the ambitions of the Oxfordshire Local Economic Partnership (LEP), an unelected body driven by business interests, which is seeking a significant growth in the local economy, with a knock-on 'policy led' increase in the County's population. Although the LEP proposals are outlined in the draft Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan, there appears to be no intention to open this up to full public consultation. Setting such ambitious targets for rapid growth in housing numbers also leads to concerns that a failure to deliver will lead us right back to where we are now - with speculative applications based on where developers want to build rather than where the houses are required.