

Comment

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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Radley College & Kibswell Homes Radley College & Kibswell Homes
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Consultation Point	Core Policy 2: Cooperation on Unmet Housing Need for Oxfordshire (View)
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Submission Type	Email
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Files	741289 LPPub.pdf
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)	Yes
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.

2.5 The Duty to Cooperate

Core Policy 2: Cooperation on Unmet Housing Need for Oxfordshire

2.5.1 Core Policy 2 addresses the Duty to Cooperate. It explains that the Council will continue to fulfil its statutory duty to cooperate by working effectively with all the other Oxfordshire local authorities in accordance with the Oxfordshire Statement of Cooperation to seek to jointly meet, in full, the objectively assessed need for economic and housing growth across the Oxfordshire HMA. It states that:

Whilst the extent to which Oxford City can meet its own need is robustly tested and agreed, the Council will first seek to accommodate its own housing need in full, to help ensure that the needs of both the district and the housing market area as a whole are met as quickly as possible. In tandem, the Council will continue to work jointly with all of the other Oxfordshire local authorities to address any unmet housing need. This will include assessing all reasonable spatial options, including the release of brownfield land, the potential for new settlements and a full strategic review of the whole of the Oxford Green Belt. If, following this joint work, it is identified and agreed, either through the Oxfordshire Growth Board or through an adjoining local plan examination, that any unmet housing need is required to be accommodated within this district, the Council will either undertake a full or focused partial review of the Local Plan 2031; or allocate appropriate housing sites through a subsequent development plan document in conformity with the Spatial Strategy set out in the Local Plan 2031.

2.5.2 PPG explains at paragraph 002 Reference ID: 9 -002-20140306 that the duty to cooperate is a legal test that requires cooperation between local planning authorities and other public bodies to maximise the effectiveness of policies for strategic matters in Local Plans. It is separate from but related to the Local Plan test of soundness.

2.5.3 The Council's approach appears to represent a legally compliant approach to the Plan making process and the policy is very clear that the Council intends to fulfil its statutory duty to cooperate under the Localism Act 2011. In terms of soundness and the requirement for the Council to work with other local authorities in the same housing market area in respect of the issue of housing need, the position fully accords with the guidance set out at paragraph 007 Reference ID: 2a-007-20140306 of the PPG which states that local planning authorities should assess their development needs working with the other local authorities in the relevant housing market area or functional economic area in line with the duty to cooperate.

2.5.4 The Freeholder notes that the same paragraph suggests that Where Local Plans are at different stages of production, local planning authorities can build upon the existing evidence base of partner local authorities in their housing market area but should coordinate future housing reviews so they take place at the same time. The Oxfordshire authorities have conducted a coordinated review of housing targets for each of the authorities within the sub-region, which is manifested in the Oxfordshire SHMA. The approach taken in this respect is considered fully compliant with PPG guidance and the Freeholder have no further comment to make in respect of procedural or regulatory matters pertaining to the production of the 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? Yes - I wish to participate at the oral examination