

Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2

Statement of Common Ground

Between

Vale of White Horse District Council

and

Highways England

February 2018

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by Vale of White Horse District Council ("VoWH") and Highways England hereafter referred to as "the parties". This SoCG documents those matters agreed with regard to the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2 and supporting documents to assist the Inspector during the Examination of the Local Plan.
- 1.2. This statement is provided without prejudice to other matters of detail that parties may wish to raise during the examination.

2. Matters on which parties agree

Duty to Cooperate

- 2.1. VoWH has continuously engaged with Highways England through the evolution of the Local Plan 2031 Part 2. More information and details of this engagement can be found in Topic Paper 1: Duty to Cooperate.
- 2.2. The parties agree that VoWH has discharged its duty to cooperate for Local Plan 2031 Part 2.

Transport Evidence Supporting Local Plan 2031 Part 2

- 2.3. Highways England and VoWH consider that the Evaluation of Transport Impact work undertaken by Atkins using the Oxfordshire Strategic Model for the council and Oxfordshire County Council has identified no showstoppers at this stage to enable progress of the Local Plan 2031 Part 2. This evidence has informed the bringing forward of sites for development in the district.
- 2.4. The parties also agree to continue to work positively on planning for development and associated infrastructure for Vale of White Horse, ensuring

that any impacts on the strategic road network are understood and where relevant mitigated. This will be particularly important as details emerge for the proposed additional site allocations at Dalton Barracks and Harwell Campus.

3. Wider matters for consideration

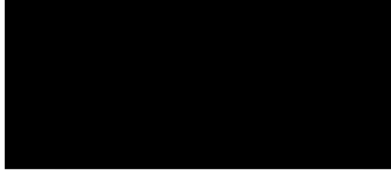
- 3.1. Any proposals for significant future investment in the strategic road network (A34/M40) will likely be identified through the Government's Road Investment Strategy. Opportunities will be outlined in more detail in Highways England's Route Strategies that will cover the plan period until 2031. In particular, it is recognised that there are proposals being developed for an Expressway between Oxford and Cambridge that may impact on the district, with further detail emerging over the next few years for input to the 2020-2025 Road Investment Strategy.
- 3.2. Core Policy 34: A34 Strategy of the adopted Local Plan 2031 Part 1 includes a commitment for the council to *"continue to work with Highways England, Oxfordshire County Council and other partners to develop and implement a Route Based Strategy for the A34, which enables it to function as a major strategic route, thereby reducing consequential congestion on the local road network."*
- 3.3. The parties welcome future engagement on the Expressway between Oxford and Cambridge as more detailed work is progressed.
- 3.4. It is agreed that based on the transport evidence supporting the Local Plan 2031, there have been no showstoppers identified to date. However it is agreed that if any new strategic sites were to be proposed for allocation, the Local Plan 2031 supporting evidence would need to be updated to consider both the individual and cumulative impact from strategic sites (and other Local Plan 2031 growth) to establish if any further mitigation/infrastructure is required to enable delivery

4. Conclusion

- 4.1. The Council has consulted Highways England on the submission plan and Highways England has no objections to the policies and proposed site allocations outlined in the Local Plan 2031 Part 2.

Signatures

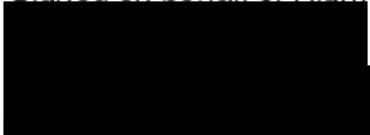
Signed on behalf of Vale of White Horse District Council



Adrian Duffield
Head of Planning

23/02/2018

Signed on behalf of Highways England



Patrick Blake
Spatial Planning Manager (Area 3)

Date 22/2/18

