

## Comment

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**Comment by** Dr Saul Myerson

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**Q1 To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate? Please state the paragraph or policy or policies map.** 1.13 - 1.19, Core Policy 34

**Q2 Do you consider the Local Plan is Legally Compliant?** Yes

**Q3 Do you consider the Local Plan is Sound?** No

**Q4 Do you consider the Local Plan complies with the Duty to Cooperate?** Yes

**Q5 Please provide 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 cooperate, please also use this box to set out your comments.**

I am very concerned about the targets used - the SHMA which set a target of 100,000 homes for Oxfordshire is flawed, and even the government suggests a target of 60,000. Not only are the existing targets over-ambitious but 1400 more houses are planned to be added, plus a further 2200 required to meet Oxford's unmet need (a further unfair burden on South Oxfordshire and the Vale).

There is inadequate infrastructure for these new homes - for example the Milton interchange improvements were planned to ease the existing traffic and small extension to Milton Park. They did not take into account the huge developments as part of the Didcot Garden Town, nor these additional homes - you cannot count the surplus capacity 3 times! There is already significant traffic congestion

in and around Didcot, Sutton Courtenay, Drayton and Abingdon even on normal days, let alone on the frequent occasions when the A34 is blocked due to accidents (when it becomes impossible to move). The roads simply cannot take more traffic. Then there are the other aspects - sewage capacity (!), schools, leisure, doctors, and all other amenities required.

There is significant reliance on the A34 road in these plans, and the proposed core policy 34 relating to the A34 simply says that the council will work with Highways England to manage the traffic! There are no plans for any improvements / new roads or anything to cope properly with the increased number of people living in these new homes. This section of the A34 (from Chilton to the M40) is already heavily congested and there have been repeated calls for a new motorway alongside this road. The frequent accidents on this stretch result in large part from the congestion, so to add more traffic to this road is irresponsible and will only increase the casualty rate - not a great advert for these new homes!

**Q6. Please set out what modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to the matter you have identified at 5 above. (NB Please note that any non-compliance with the duty to cooperate 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.**

Much better plans for ensuring the infrastructure is in place before the new houses are built is required. This applies to schools, doctors surgeries, rail stations etc (some of which are already planned for later stages of the development), but in particular for managing the traffic that would be using the A34 and other roads. We cannot simply add more traffic to this accident prone section of the road, however good the traffic management system. Building the houses and then planning the infrastructure later does not work, especially when this has already occurred in previous phases of new developments in the area!

**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

**Would you like to hear from us in the future?** . I would like to be kept informed about the progress of the Local Plan