

Comment

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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Mrs Ticia Lever
Comment ID	LPPub959
Response Date	18/12/14 22:40
Consultation Point	Core Policy 8: Spatial Strategy for Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area (View)
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.2
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? 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.

Unsound.

Traffic growth in the Vale is steadily increasing and if the proposed development of 1000 houses in North Abingdon is permitted this will worsen the situation.

The plan estimates that there will be 70% additional jobs in the Science Vale to the south of Abingdon. this will significantly increase traffic commuting southwards either through the town centre which is already congested at peak times or they will use the orbital road.

Mitigation measures of a full diamond junction at Lodge Hill, the widening of the A34 and an additional river crossing to the south of Abingdon (to access the Culham Science Park) will require substantial financial investment well beyond the scope of the Community Structure Levy.

The Air Quality in Abingdon centre is above the Governments health Guidelines and will become worse with the additional traffic. The key ameliation measure was to direct traffic along Dunmore Road.

However the recent expensive County Highway scheme involving the narrowing of Dunmore Road at the Wootton Road roundabout has made the traffic queues considerably worse. Dunmore Road will now have to take substantial additional traffic resulting from the proposed extra 1000 houses.

Dunmore Road will have to accommodate additional road junctions including roundabouts in addition to crossings , cycle routes and reducing the speed limits for pedestrians including the many school children who will live in the new housing. The lenthening queues on Dunmore Road as a result of this proposed development will push more people to drive through the centre of Abingdon, worsening even further the air quality.

The Council should consider locating the new housing closer to the predicted jobs growth in the South Vale. The plan seeks to encourage more ecologically friendly commuting, including walking, cycling and public transport) which is not practical if the housing is located in the North of Abingdon.

The traffic implications of the proposed housing would make a substantial difference to the commuting times to school and work for many residents of Abingdon.

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.

The North Abingdon site should remain in the Green Belt and not be developed for housing.

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