

## Comment

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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Oxfordshire County Council (Ms Bev Hindle)
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Consultation Point	Core Policy 2: Cooperation on Unmet Housing Need for Oxfordshire ( <a href="#">View</a> )
Status	Submitted
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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.**

1. The county council in principle supports the Local Plan and the need to now plan for a higher level of growth across the Vale aligned to the findings of the Strategic Housing Marketing Assessment (SHMA), particularly focusing high employment and housing growth within Science Vale.
2. However, the Local Plan and growth strategy proposed overall is not sustainable longer term. It is a short-term plan focussed on dealing with the districts immediate 5 year housing land supply target.

The spatial growth strategy within the Local Plan needs to be tested in the wider context as part of a comprehensive Oxfordshire review. Distributing smaller sites across the district presents difficulties in planning for infrastructure to support place making. We should be moving away from this approach and investing in bringing larger more sustainable sites forward ? which the Plan only does in part.

3. The emerging pattern of development in the Vale will need to be fully integrated with proposed growth across the County as a whole in terms of infrastructure planning and delivery. The Plan could go further to set the Vale in the context of the Oxfordshire Knowledge Spine, and look at opportunities that Science Transit and East West Rail will bring through improved connectivity to other key employment locations in Oxfordshire and beyond.