

Comment

Consultee	Dr Christopher Prior (827386)
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Address	59 Appleton Road Cumnor Oxford OX2 9QH
Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Dr Christopher Prior
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Consultation Point	Core Policy 4: Housing Delivery - continued from previous page (View)
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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 West 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? No

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.

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) is unsound and set at a level which is unsustainable. It is based on unrealistic estimates of economic growth and extremely optimistic assumptions of future

needs provided by businesses. The total was seemingly presented as unarguable but is now seen to be over-estimated by a likely factor of 2-3. It appears that the consultation process did not go into sufficient depth, expert advice has been ignored and historical evidence has not been taken into account.

The idea of a major science and business corridor between Newbury and Oxford has been promoted for over 20 years, but has never taken off. Recent new buildings on the Harwell site, for example, where many of the new jobs are expected to be, have been used as holding or consultation offices by companies which have moved on after one year. Large-scale science budgets are suffering from severe and repeated cuts, so new job opportunities in those areas will be limited. There have been (privately owned) boarded-up houses on the Harwell site for a number of years. It may be that the present initiatives will be successful, but proposing housing at a distance from these sites, with an inadequate road network and limited public transport system, does not seem a practical way of meeting needs.

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 enhanced number of jobs created and the corresponding housing needs should be very clearly and realistically identified. A full and proper assessment of the road transport network should be carried out and a viable scheme produced based on an infrastructure for which the necessary funding is guaranteed to be available. Where possible, housing should be sufficiently close to jobs to allow travel by bus, bicycle or on foot.

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