

Comment

Consultee	Ms Margaret Killick (871772)
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Address	17B Park Crescent Abingdon OX14 1DF
Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Ms Margaret Killick
Comment ID	LPPub243
Response Date	15/12/14 13:54
Consultation Point	Core Policy 8: Spatial Strategy for Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area (View)
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Email
Version	0.3
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.

I wish to object to draft Local Plan Part 1 2031 Re Core Policy 8 (Oxford Green Belt), 13 (Spatial Strategy for Abingdon and Oxford fringe sub area), 15 (Spatial strategy for SE Vale sub area). Because VWHDC has failed to consider SHMA's figures properly, it has erroneously allocated for housing sites both in the Green Belt (1510 houses) and in the North Wessex downs AONB (1400 houses). Both threaten the Vale's rural character.

Re green belts: the fundamental aim of Government policy remains to prevent urban sprawl, by keeping land permanently open. VWHDC's plan ignores the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

which says that a Green Belt boundary may be altered only in 'exceptional circumstances'. A serious flaw is that the clear-cut current boundary along Dunmore Road and Twelve Acre Drive would be replaced by a far more breachable one proposed to the north.

Re: AONB: under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2002, VWHDC has a statutory duty to have regard for the purposes for which the North Wessex Downs AONB was designated, i.e. to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape. The NPPF places AONBs in the highest category of landscape protection, giving them 'great weight' in decision making. 'Planning permission should be refused for major developments in these designated areas except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that they are in the public interest.' Again there is a serious flaw; to the east of Harwell Campus a clear-cut existing boundary would be replaced in the most egregious case by a far more breachable northern limit.

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.

Refuse the proposals to take land out of the Green Belt and the AONB.

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