

Comment

Consultee	Mrs Vivienne Illingworth (868096)
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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Mrs Vivienne Illingworth
Comment ID	LPPub740
Response Date	17/12/14 20:27
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.	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.

Focusing housing growth at market towns at first sounds sensible but in the case of Abingdon it does not work. Abingdon experienced considerable growth in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, using up all areas of appropriate land. Of the remaining land, the land in north Abingdon is Green Belt, the land near the Thames is flood plain and floods regularly, and the Plan rules out south Abingdon on the grounds that there is no south-Abingdon bypass. Hence there is no suitable land left for extensive housing development.

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.

Abingdon should be excluded from large housing development until such time as a southern bypass has been built. Taking a lower SHMA figure for the early years of the plan and reconsidering the plan later on may mean that large developments are actually not needed in Abingdon. [There may be less need, and the ?reservoir site? may become available in 2019]