

Comment

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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Professor Basil Crowley
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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

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 Green Belt review supporting the Plan has been improperly carried out. It has not been conducted independently, It has not been conducted in a systematic manner in which the whole Green Belt is reviewed at the same (predetermined) time. It has failed to demonstrate that land (to be) removed

from the Green Belt fails to meet Green Belt criteria. This is manifestly the case in Radley, where the planners appear to have seized upon any land that meets the criteria for development. Most importantly for the Local Plan, it fails to meet essential requirements of Core Policy 2 (see my comments relating to that policy).

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.

Green Belt reviews should be conducted according to a strict process involving all affected Local Authorities (which Core Policy 2 seems to require) in which the maintenance of the Green Belt, rather than its dismantling, should be the paramount consideration. Reviews should focus on applying Green Belt criteria to determine adjustments to the boundaries while respecting the over-arching purpose of the Green Belt. The reviews should be carried in a strictly independent manner to ensure strict propriety, by disinterested persons, and in consultation with local authorities, including Parish Councils.

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