

Comment

Consultee	Ms Margaret Killick (871772)
Email Address	
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	LPPub247
Response Date	15/12/14 13:59
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 4 and all others that follow from it, especially core policies 8, 13, 15, 20.

The plan is based on Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) which is unsound. Organizations, the public and politicians have objected. A leading planning expert on behalf of the CPRE concluded that SHMA's estimate of housing needs could be grossly overstated by a factor of over two; Oxfordshire County Councillor Neil Fawcett assesses this factor at 3.5. Much of its forecast is based on another forecast that 85,000 new jobs will be created, attracting more people to the county.

To achieve the forecasts for both jobs and housing, both must grow very much faster than in the last 5 years; this seems inconceivable in face of another 5 years of cuts and austerity just predicted by George Osborne. VWHDC has failed to consider the issue properly. Neither the jobs nor the housing forecasts have received public consultation or independent scrutiny. Although SHMA itself admits it is just a starting point, it seems that VWHDC has not queried the figures, asked for an independent review or given adequate consideration to social, environmental factors or infrastructure.

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.

Reduce the numbers of houses to a more realistic level.