

Comment

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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Foreman Laws LLP (Mr James Halliday)
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Consultation Point	Core Policy 8: Spatial Strategy for Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area (View)
Status	Submitted
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Version	0.2

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 Plan identifies four development sites in the Oxford Green Belt to accommodate 1,510 dwellings. A further 11 sites in the Green Belt are proposed to be removed from the Green Belt. This is based on the Vale Council's so-called 'local Green Belt Review'; it was no such thing, it was a search for housing sites in the Vale's portion of the Oxford Green Belt. No allocation of sites in the Vale's portion of the Oxford Green Belt should be made until a full joint review of the entirety of the Green Belt is completed by all five Oxfordshire Districts and the County Council. Indeed recent Government statements seem to indicate that the partial review of a Green Belt is undesirable.

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.

Remove the four allocated sites in the Oxford Green Belt totalling 1,150 dwellings (N Abingdon 800, NE Abingdon 200, NW Radley 240 & S Kennington 270) and reinstate Green Belt designation for the 11 further sites proposed for removal from the Green Belt. Delete all references to the 'local Green Belt Review'.

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? Yes - I wish to participate at the oral examination