

## Comment

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<b>Q1 Do you consider the Local Plan is Legally Compliant?</b>	Yes
<b>Q2 Do you consider the Local Plan is Sound (positively prepared, effective and Justified)</b>	Yes
<b>If your comment(s) relate to a specific site within a core policy please select this from the drop down list.</b>	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.**

19. The Partnership also supports the Council's decision to meet in full its objectively assessed need for new housing in the Vale as set out in the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (April 2014) i.e. 1,028 homes per annum (2011 ? 2013) or a total of 20,560 during the plan period, although more homes will be necessary as part of a short term review of the plan ? not least to address the chronic under-provision of housing in the sub-region and particularly, Oxford's unmet need.

20. Overall, the SHMA concludes that up to 93,560 ? 106,560 additional homes are needed across Oxfordshire in the period 2011 ? 2031 (between 4,678 ? 5,328 homes per annum).<sup>4</sup> Under the heading 'Balancing Jobs and Homes' the SHMA summary refers to the City Deal signed with Government in January 2014 ?to deliver innovation-led economic growth, building on the area's world class economic assets which include the universities and research and development activities.<sup>5</sup> Key among the latter is Harwell Campus.

21. The City Deal Policy Paper identifies the Harwell Campus as a "prioritised development area", recommending the consideration of Local Development Orders.<sup>6</sup> Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council and central Government have all committed to substantial investment in the Harwell Investment Hub, emphasising the strength and growth potential of Harwell Campus.<sup>7</sup>

22. In relation to the Vale, the SHMA identifies that this level of housing growth is required to provide the labour force to support a 'Committed Employment Growth' scenario resulting in 23,000 jobs in the District between 2011-2031.<sup>8</sup> This growth scenario is above 'baseline' trend scenarios, reflecting policy initiatives and investment in the local economy, including at the Harwell Campus. This is confirmed in paragraph 3.35 where it states that Science Vale will be one of the locations where major projects will create new jobs.

23. The recognition of the economic potential of the Harwell Campus and the need to support economic growth through an increase in housing delivery is welcomed and supported by the Partnership. However, planning for housing growth should also be driven by a recognition of the Campus's role in relation to nationally important objectives for science investment. It is clear, for instance, that there is a close relationship between scale and location of planned housing provision and the concentration of employment and employment growth potential exemplified by Harwell Campus.

24. Housing growth is necessary to supply sufficient labour for Science Vale to achieve its important potential. Moreover, locating housing growth alongside the employment centre will bring clear sustainable benefits as well as adding to the character and attractiveness of the Campus as a place to work. The type of housing is also important if it is to optimise its contribution to the labour requirements of Science Vale and this will need to be planned

carefully. Further work is being carried out by the Partnership to establish the types of housing that will best support the science investment.

25. The established nature of the Harwell Campus also means that it can deliver new employment-generating development and housing in advance of the adoption of the Local Plan ? evidence the existing commitment to provide 120 homes on land at South Drive. This potential for early delivery can greatly assist the Council in terms of meeting its requirement to achieve and maintain a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites, as well as providing early benefits to the campus.

**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

**Please note** the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the oral part of the examination.

**Q7 If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:**

The Harwell Campus is central to the Council's spatial and economic strategy. It is therefore vitally important that the Harwell Campus Partnership has an opportunity to present its objections to the draft local plan both orally and in writing.