

5. 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.

**Core Policy 15: Appendix A –Site Development Template for Valley Park**

*Why not legally compliant or unsound or fails to comply with duty to co-operate?*

Some of the requirements set out under this policy are unsound in terms of not being effective or consistent with national policy, judged against the tests of soundness under Paragraph 182 of the NPPF.

Under the heading of ‘access and highways’ (first bullet point) it would be wholly unreasonable for the development to **“provide”** the proposed Harwell Link, which is a strategic Oxfordshire County Council project that will be delivered by the County, and funded in part by all development within the South East Vale Sub-Area (including Valley Park).

Similarly, under the fourth and fifth bullet points applicable to access and highways, it would be unreasonable and unviable for the developers to connect footpaths, cycle tracks, roads and bus routes where this involves the use of third party land (such as utilising the named footpath and cycle access under the railway at Backhill Lane).

As such, these parts of the Development Template would be contrary to the Council’s own evidence (such as its Infrastructure Delivery Plan) and the NPPF (such as Paragraphs 173 to 177 relating to viability and deliverability).