

Comment

Consultee	Mrs Susan Davidson (829945)
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Address	51 Hurst Lane Oxford OX2 9PR
Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Mrs Susan Davidson
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Consultation Point	Core Policy 13: The Oxford Green Belt (View)
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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

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 proposed Green Belt boundary alterations should not be allowed at all because they fail to meet the requirement set out in NPPF March 2012 para 83. Green Belt boundaries can only be altered where there are 'exceptional circumstances'. This is a pre-requisite.

However, the Vale sets out no case for what might be exceptional circumstances, so apparently there are none. Rather, the Vale's study focuses instead on the five purposes Green Belt serves. But before focusing on these purposes the pre-requisite of exceptional circumstances must have been met and demonstrated, which it has not here.

NPPF March 2012 Para 83 states: 'Local planning authorities with Green Belts in their area should establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans which set the framework for Green Belt and settlement policy. Once established, Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances, through the preparation or review of the Local Plan.'

Until now, the Vale has been supportive of Green Belt policies including its boundaries set in 1991 Oxford Fringe & Green Belt Local Plan. It is nonsense for the Vale to suddenly become critical of standing boundaries as a means to deliver housing development targets, and in any event this is not an exceptional circumstance. Designating land for housing purposes is one of the norms for preparation and review of local plans throughout the country.

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 boundaries must remain as per the current Local Plan 2011 in the absence of compliance with NPPF March 2012 para 83, compliance is mandatory.

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