

Comment

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Address	The Old Crown Oxford Road Wantage OX12 0HR
Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Dr Paul Birkby
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Consultation Point	Public transport, cycling and walking (View)
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Q1 Do you consider the Local Plan is Legally Compliant? Yes

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. South of East Hanney

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? Yes

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 is unsound because tere are no deliverable plans in place to increase capacity on many bus routes, before housing development takes place.

Increased capacity on the existing bus services will be required as more houses are built to cope with demand, otherwise car usage will be the only viable option for most people.

For example, the bus service between Oxford and Wantage is currently good, however, in the rush hour standing is sometimes required and on some occasions the bus cannot take further passengers despite the service now running double decker buses. With the new houses already being built in Wantage and Grove the service to Oxford will likely continue to become significantly busier. This could be further increased by those wishing to get to the new Grove Station if it opens.

The increase in traffic along the A338 corridor to Oxford, due to the significant housing increases in the Vale, will almost certainly lengthen the already extended bus times and make the arrival times more variable. This will make bus transport an unworkable solution for many unless there is significant investment in other forms of public transport and to encourage cycling and walking.

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.

The Local Plan should contain a deliverable plan on how to achieve the transport policies that it contains. For example:

- 1 A deliverable plan to mitigate the increases in traffic through rural communities
- 2 A deliverable plan for CP19, CP33, CP35
- 3 A deliverable plan for more cycle routes and better public transport.
- 4 A deliverable plan to increase capacity on existing bus routes to meet increasing demand.

The local plan should be aimed at reducing the number of car journeys by locating housing near to employment and services, improving public transport and by providing safe cycling routes. When cars are required the road building should direct traffic away from settlements rather than increasing the capacity through them.

The deliverable plan should be implemented before, or at least in parallel with, the housing delivery contained in this plan.

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