

## Vale of White Horse Local Plan Part 1

### Matter 2 Written Statement: Save Chilton AONB Action Group (871793)

I would like to submit the following statement with regards to the Matters Arising for Stage 1 of the Vale of White Horse's Local Plan to 2031 Examination in Public:

Matter 2.1: The objectively-assessed need for housing is based on vastly over optimistic employment numbers which would see the population of the Vale increase by ~40% by 2031. Furthermore, in my view, consultants SQW have failed to adequately explain how they arrived at their projected employment figures (beyond a simple "area of land" divided by "area needed per job" calculation).

The following article illustrates how the housing figures don't add up:

*"It would be interesting to know how the three county councils – Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire – calculated the figure of 135,000 new jobs in the counties as you reported ('Counties want a £9bn new deal for growth', May 27).*

*The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), on which Oxfordshire's district councils based the need for new houses until 2031, forecasts 'committed economic growth' generating 87,049 new jobs. There seems to be a conflict between this figure and the figure the counties are quoting. If Oxfordshire is going to generate 87,000 new jobs, then Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire are expecting 48,000 between them. Some mistake, surely.*

*The SHMA has an alternative employment growth projection called Sub-national Population Projections (SNPP), which gives 45,068 new jobs in Oxfordshire until 2031. This seems to be more in line with the three county councils' ambition of 135,000 new jobs, as Oxfordshire's 45,000 amounts to a third of the total.*

*Translating this to housing need, the 'committed economic growth' scenario requires 85,593 new homes in Oxfordshire between 2011 and 2031, while the SNPP estimate is 57,748."* (Source: Herald Series [http://www.heraldseries.co.uk/news/opinion/letters/13219591.It\\_doesn\\_\\_\\_t\\_add\\_up/](http://www.heraldseries.co.uk/news/opinion/letters/13219591.It_doesn___t_add_up/))

Kind regards,

Dr P Dothie