



Vale of White Horse Local Plan Examination

Comments on the document produced by the District Council HEAR4 - VWHDC Response to Inspector's queries Matter 2.pdf

With regard to the **Data on employment change**, we would like to draw the Inspectors attention to a recent update to the NFU website on agricultural employment which states that Agricultural employment is still declining at the rate of more than 2% per annum and the fact that since 2011 more than 250 hectares of agricultural land in the Vale has been approved for solar use.

Furthermore, the email attached to the response from the UK Space Agency simply confirms that 5000 jobs should be on the Harwell Campus. It does not confirm that these figures are for jobs based at Harwell but may include people whose employment is based elsewhere, but who (for example) might come to the District on a temporary basis such as to undertake research using the Diamond Light Synchrotron but who are employed by organisations based elsewhere (such as at the University of Manchester). Yet all 5000 jobs have been included in the housing needs calculation.

We would also draw the Inspectors attention to the Regulation 19 Submission from Crown Estate (Jonathan Stoddart) "Crown Estate (Jonathan Stoddart) Publication_Stage_Reps-FINAL.pdf" which states that the Vale was notified in 2002 and it was confirmed in this submission that Crown intends to move from its 7.2 hectare site on the edge of Wantage and Grove taking 340 jobs from the area and making the site available for residential development.

Regarding the relationship with South Oxfordshire, we would draw the Inspectors attention to the Regulation 19 Submission from Didcot Town Council "Didcot Town Council (Karen Dodd) vale local plan 2031 response.pdf" which states that although "SODC's Core Policy currently provides for about 9,000 additional homes in Didcot. This number has been slow to be built out, one site has still not been developed after 30 years."

It goes on to say "It appears unlikely that increasing planned numbers near Didcot would increase housing supply by 2031. This conflicts with NPPF 47 on deliverable sites and paragraph 154 that requires plans to be aspirational but realistic."

It also refers to poor infrastructure plans, reflected in our own Regulation 19 submission.