

Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1

Examination Hearings

Stage 1 - September 2015

Statement of Common Ground

Between

Vale of White Horse District Council

and

West Oxfordshire District Council

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared jointly by the parties identified above ("the parties") to document matters agreed with regard to the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1 and supporting evidence base, which will assist the Inspector during Stage 1 of the Examination in Public.

2. Duty to Cooperate

- 2.1. As set out in TOP01 (Topic Paper 1: Duty to Co-operate and Cross Boundary Issues) and subsequently in DLP10 (Statement of Compliance with the Duty to Co-operate), Vale of White Horse District Council have continuously engaged with West Oxfordshire District Council through the evolution of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 on a number of cross boundary issues.
- 2.2. West Oxfordshire District Council has continuously engaged with Vale of White Horse District Council in the preparation of the emerging Local Plan 2031 Part 1, including working alongside other Oxfordshire authorities to produce the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment.
- 2.3. All Oxfordshire councils participated in the Oxfordshire SHMA process and are signatories to the Oxfordshire Statement of Co-operation to the effect that each will seek to meet their own needs, but if they cannot, to co-operate to meet the housing needs within the Housing Market Area (HMA) through a managed process. The level of need identified in Oxford city is unlikely to be met within its constrained boundaries and is being considered through the duty to co-operate process. This is likely to impact on housing requirements in the surrounding Oxfordshire districts to an extent that may be significant but is yet to be determined. The Oxfordshire Growth Board (joint Committee of Councillors), which has representatives from all of the Oxfordshire Local

Authorities, has developed a work programme to determine the precise level of unmet need in Oxford City, and to distribute this need between the neighbouring rural districts in Oxfordshire.

- 2.4. It is agreed the parties will continue to work together on cross boundary issues to ensure a coherent strategy that supports the delivery of proposals including the appropriate mitigation.

3. Agreed Matters

Duty to Co-operate

- 3.1. The parties agree that the duty to co-operate has been met with respect to matters of strategic importance between the two districts.

Housing and Employment Needs for West Oxfordshire

- 3.2. It is agreed that the housing and employment needs for West Oxfordshire can most sustainably be met at locations within West Oxfordshire District and there is no identified requirement to meet West Oxfordshire's requirements within Vale of White Horse.

Housing and Employment Needs for Vale of White Horse

- 3.3. It is agreed that the housing and employment needs for Vale of White Horse can most sustainably be met within the Vale of White Horse district and there is no identified requirement to meet the Vale of White Horse's requirement within West Oxfordshire.
- 3.4. Should the proposed strategy and level of growth for either Vale of White Horse or West Oxfordshire change, the parties will continue to discuss the most appropriate strategy including with other relevant partners through the Duty to Co-operate.
- 3.5. It is agreed that based on the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1 evidence base as published at the date of this statement, that in seeking to meet in full the objectively assessed needs that reflect strong projected employment growth, the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 would provide more opportunities for those working in the Vale, to live in the Vale.

Signatures

Signed on behalf of Vale of White Horse District Council

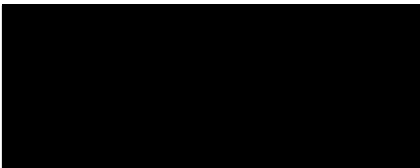


Adrian Duffield
Head of Planning Service

20 August 2015

Date

Signed on behalf of West Oxfordshire District Council



Head of Planning and
Strategic Housing

20 August 2015

Date

