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Mark Williams
Planning Policy Project Lead
Vale of White Horse District Council
Abbey House
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OX14 3JE

17th April 2015

Dear Mr Williams,

Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 (Part 1) – Examination

I have now spent a week or so undertaking initial preparation for the Examination – reading the plan itself and reviewing the evidence the Council has submitted in support of it and the representations made.

There are a large number of representations and I'm sure you will appreciate that it will inevitably take some time for me to assess these. The *Regulation 22 Consultation Statement* and its supporting *Appendix 3* are of help in this regard, although I am finding the filing system for the representations themselves very cumbersome. I've mentioned to Ian some specific problems and gather that you have already discussed with him ways of improving the situation. I'd be grateful if you would continue to liaise with him on this matter in order that he can provide me with a revised filing system of the representations as soon as possible.

Whilst I recognise that it is not a regulatory requirement, I also note that the Council has not, at this stage, indicated its response to the points raised by representors. The detail of the Council's arguments on issues raised in representations, which go to the soundness of the plan, are clearly matters for hearing statements and discussion at the hearings themselves. However, in order that I can focus the Examination as a whole, and the list of Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) in particular, on the issues of relevance to soundness it would be extremely helpful if you would provide me with a brief response of the Council to each of the points raised. In the absence of this it is probable that I would have to include in the MIQs a detailed question in connection with almost every point raised in the representations. Given the overall number of representations, this would be likely to make for a very lengthy and difficult to manage Examination. I would therefore be grateful if you could let me know in the next week or so when you envisage you will be able to submit this information.

Once I have had the opportunity to consider the Council's responses I will be in a better position to determine the appropriate format and timescales for the Examination.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Rivett

INSPECTOR