

VALE OF WHITE HORSE LOCAL PLAN

UPDATE BULLETIN 2 – JUNE 2016



INTRODUCTION >

This bulletin is the second in a series of progress updates on the Vale of White Horse District Council's Local Plan.

UPDATE OF LOCAL PLAN 2031 PART 1 >

Strategic Sites and Policies

The Local Plan 2031 Part 1 sets out the overall development strategy for the district and where new housing and employment should be located up to 2031. We are planning for 20,560 homes and 23,000 jobs together with the infrastructure such as new schools and roads to support this growth.

In our first Local Plan Update Bulletin we explained that the plan had been through two stages of Examination in September 2015 and February 2016. We also explained that we were expecting to receive the Planning Inspector's Interim Findings in June 2016.

These Interim Findings have now been published and are summarised briefly on this page. The Inspector has indicated that subject to main modifications, the plan is likely to be found sound. Clearly this is good news for the Council, but there are several more stages before the plan can be adopted. For example, we anticipate public consultation will take place during the summer on the Inspector's proposed modifications. Further information and updates will be available on the Council website and will be included in future update bulletins.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTOR'S INTERIM FINDINGS >

The Inspector's Interim Findings letter considers fourteen matters set out in the Local Plan 2031: Part 1. The Inspector is satisfied that eleven of these are likely to be soundly based, subject to main modifications:

Matter	Summary
Five year supply of deliverable housing land	The Inspector is satisfied that the plan will provide a five year supply of deliverable housing for the district for the plan period.
Duty-to-Cooperate	The Council has adequately discharged its duty.
Objectively assessed need for housing	The Council has adequately discharged its duty. 20,560 dwellings is a soundly based figure for the district's objectively-assessed need.
Unmet housing needs for other districts	The plan's approach to addressing potential unmet needs from other districts (i.e. that provision will be made in the Local Plan 2031: Part 2) is soundly based.
Settlement hierarchy	The Inspector is satisfied that the settlement hierarchy is soundly based.
Housing supply ring-fence	The Inspector is satisfied that the general principle of a housing supply ring fence for the Science Vale area is sound.
Employment land	The provision of meeting business and employment needs is soundly based.
Green Belt	The Inspector considers that it was appropriate to undertake a Green Belt review and that 'exceptional circumstances' do exist to justify removing four sites from the Green Belt (North of Abingdon 800 homes/ North-West of Abingdon 200 homes/ South of Kennington 270 homes/ North-West Radley 240 homes).
Other housing allocations	The Inspector is satisfied that all of the other housing allocations (apart from two sites located within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and one site at East Hanney) are soundly based.
Housing requirement	
Other elements of the plan	The housing requirement of 20,560 dwellings for the Vale for the plan period is soundly based. below) are likely to be capable of being found to be soundly based.

The Inspector raises questions about four matters set out in the plan where he considers they are either unlikely to be found sound or where he has simply requested further information to assist his deliberations:

Matter	Summary
Unallocated Green Belt Sites	The Inspector is not satisfied with the Council's proposed release of land from the Green Belt that is not being allocated for housing. We are proposing to remove them from the plan.
North Wessex Downs AONB Allocations	The Inspector is not satisfied with the Council's proposed allocations for housing within the North Wessex Downs AONB. However, the Inspector has stated that replacement sites do not need to be allocated in the Local Plan 2031: Part 1 and there is "little reason to delay adoption of the Part 1 Plan by seeking to allocate replacement sites at this stage". We are proposing to remove the AONB sites from the plan.
Housing allocation at East Hanney	The Inspector has asked if the proposed development at East Hanney is deliverable. The Council is proposing to remove this site from the Local Plan 2031: Part 1, it may be considered through Local Plan 2031: Part 2.
Botley Central Area	The Inspector has asked a number of questions about Policy CP11 (Botley Central Area). The Council agrees to amend the policy so it becomes more consistent with the Botley Centre SPD.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING TRACKER

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROGRESS ACROSS VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT - 07 JUNE 2016 >

Area application submitted	Consultation on area designation	Area designated	Parish preparing plan	Parish consultation pre-submit to Vale	Plan submitted to Vale	Vale consultation on plan	Independent examination	Referendum	'Yes' or 'No' vote	Plan 'made' (adopted)
Abingdon										Adoption target 2018/19
Ashbury										Adoption target 2018/19
Appleton with Eaton										Adoption target late 2016
Blewbury										Adoption target late 2016
Chilton										Adoption target 2018/19
Drayton										Plan made 15 July 2015
East Hanney										Adoption target 2017/18
East Hendred										Adoption target 2018/19
Faringdon							Undergoing examination			Adoption target late 2016
Great Coxwell										Plan made 15 July 2015
Longworth							Undergoing examination			Adoption target late 2016
North Hinksey (inc Botley)										Adoption target 2017/18
Radley										Adoption target 2017/18
Shrivenham										Adoption target 2017/18
Standford in the Vale										Adoption target 2017/18
Steventon										Adoption target 2017/18
Sunningwell										Adoption target 2018/19
Sutton Courtenay										Adoption target 2017/18
Uffington, Baulking and Woolstone										Adoption target 2017/18
Wantage							Undergoing examination			Adoption target mid 2016
West Hanney										Adoption target 2017/18

Market town / Local Service Centre

Larger village

Smaller village

OUR HELP AND SUPPORT WE OFFER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING >

- We have two made plans: **Drayton** and **Great Coxwell**. These plans form part of our district wide policies (referred to as the Development Plan – that includes the Local Plan), which inform how planning decisions are taken.
- Examinations are currently taking place in: **Faringdon**, **Longworth**, and **Wantage**. Independent qualified examiners have been appointed jointly by the Neighbourhood Plan groups and the Council to examine the plans and see if they meet the tests set by the Government for Neighbourhood Plans.
- Toolkit: We have prepared a Vale of White Horse Neighbourhood Planning Toolkit, which is available on our website and can be used to inform the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans.

- Grant Funding: Your village or town may be eligible for a grant from Government to support the preparation of your neighbourhood plan.
- Support: We can help you to make your Neighbourhood Plan, with an initial meeting to help you get going, providing ongoing guidance, providing comments from a 'critical friend' perspective and reviewing draft documents to ensure your plan will pass the tests set by Government for Neighbourhood Plans.
- New Staff: We have appointed a full time Senior Policy Officer and a part time Policy Officer (shared with South Oxfordshire) to help us provide more support to communities preparing Neighbourhood Plans.
- Newsletter: What would you like to see from future Local Plan Bulletins relating to Neighbourhood Planning?