

AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Community Fulfillment

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Our Ref: 001/DtC/South Oxon
Your Ref:



15 February 2019

Planning Policy
South Oxfordshire District Council
135 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park
Nr. Didcot
OX14 4SB

by email to planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk

Dear sir or madam,

South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011-2034 Final Publication Version 2nd – January 2019

Further to our comments made at the Final Publication Version stage in November 2017, AVDC make the following comments on the above document.

As set out in our comments to the Final Publication Version and previous stage, AVDC consider the plan to be sound and legally compliant. AVDC do not need to have a seat at the examination table unless the Inspector specifically wishes to have neighbouring Councils represented there for a session on the 'Duty to Co-operate'. However it should be noted that since the introduction of the new NPPF, there have been no Duty to Co-operate discussions between the two councils and there is no Statement of Common Ground in place.

Housing growth needs

We support para 4.27 of the plan where the Council considers that it can meet the full 4,950 homes apportioned to South Oxfordshire through the Oxfordshire Memorandum of Co-operation agreement, and proposes to monitor this between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2031 in accordance with the memorandum. The 4,950 homes is carried forward into Policy STRAT2. We understand that the Oxfordshire Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership (SPIP) is a county-wide agreement to plan for and manage Oxfordshire's growth within the county (the housing market area - HMA). We welcome and support this, both now and in the context of any future objectively assessed housing needs in the County. *We would be grateful to receive regular updates as the work of the SPIP progresses.*

Thame

Policy H3 of the plan identifies that the allocated sites will need to be found for 363 homes in a review of the Thame Neighbourhood Plan. Policy EMP1 identifies that sites for further 1.6ha of employment land will need to be found in the review of the Thame Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore



AVDC as a consultee adjoining that neighbourhood area will be *keen to see where the sites come forward and if there are any impacts into the Vale such as landscape/visual impact or capacity of the congested A418.*

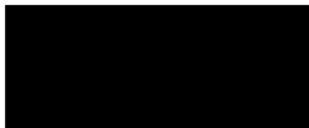
A further issue is the potential for increased rail customers at Haddenham and Thame Parkway Railway Station which could exacerbate the current problem of station users parking cars in Haddenham village. This may have implications for traffic volumes on a congested part of the local highway network. *Therefore there will be need to be continued dialogue between SODC, AVDC, Buckinghamshire County Council and Oxfordshire County Council on the infrastructure impacts of the growth (and potential for joint working on studies).*

Duty to Co-operate

We look forward to engaging with South Oxfordshire on a Duty To Co-operate Statement of Compliance for the Submission version of the plan that can be sent to the Inspector as part of the evidence that the Duty has been met. A Duty to Co-operate Topic Paper to support the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) was signed by the two Councils in February 2018 ahead of Submission of the VALP. We would suggest this is used as a basis for discussions and a new agreement to support the South Oxfordshire Local Plan. *We look forward to agreeing a formal Statement of Common Ground between Councils to form part of the respective Local Plan evidence at the Submission stage.*

I hope these comments are clear, and if you would like to discuss these further, please contact David Broadley, Senior Planning Officer by the above means.

Yours sincerely,



Charlotte Stevens
Planning Policy Manager, Community Fulfilment