

Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2

Statement of Common Ground

Between

Vale of White Horse District Council,

and

Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

February 2018

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by Vale of White Horse District Council (VoWHDC), and Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP), hereafter referred to as “the parties”. This SoCG documents those matters agreed with regard to the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2 and supporting documents to assist the Inspector during the Examination of the Local Plan.
- 1.2. This SoCG is provided without prejudice to other matters of detail that parties may wish to raise during the examination.

2. Background

- 2.1. OxLEP is responsible for championing and developing Oxfordshire’s economy, and is working with businesses, academia and the public sector to drive economic development across the county.
- 2.2. The Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for Oxfordshire sets a clear vision for the county and responds to the potential for economic growth¹. The Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2 recognises the need to plan positively for the delivery of homes and employment growth, particularly focusing on the Science Vale locality.
- 2.3. The parties recognise the unique characteristics of parts of the Vale of White Horse district, particularly around Science Vale as positively contributing to UK economy through knowledge-based economy at Harwell and Milton Park.

¹ Strategic Economic Plan for Oxfordshire 2016. Available to view and download from the OxLEP website at: <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/content/strategic-economic-plan>

3. Matters on which parties agree

Duty to Cooperate

- 3.1. VoWH has continuously engaged with OxLEP through the evolution of the Local Plan 2031: Part 2. More information and details of this engagement can be found in Topic Paper 1: Duty to Cooperate.
- 3.2. The parties agree that VoWH has discharged its duty to cooperate for Local Plan 2031 Part 2.

Supporting Economic Growth for Oxfordshire

- 3.3. The parties agree that Local Plan 2031 Part 2, in addition to the adopted Local Plan 2031 Part 1, supports strong economic growth for Oxfordshire, as set out in the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for Oxfordshire. This includes providing for around 27% of the employment growth envisioned for Oxfordshire up to 2031 as set out in the Oxfordshire SEP, and delivering the agreed apportionment of un-met housing need for Oxford City.
- 3.4. The approach taken through Local Plan 2031 Part 2 ensures that sufficient homes are being provided in the most appropriate locations to meet planned economic growth for Oxfordshire.
- 3.5. OxLEP strongly supports the proposed additional housing allocation located at Harwell Campus. A separate SoCG has been prepared between the parties and Harwell Science and Innovation Campus Limited Partnership in relation to this proposed allocation.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1. The Council has consulted OxLEP on the submission plan and they have no objections to the policies and proposed site allocations outlined in the Local Plan 2031 Part 2.

Signatures

Signed on behalf of Vale of White Horse District Council:

Adrian Duffield, Head of Planning

Date:

Signed on behalf of Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership:

NAME, JOB TITLE

Date:

DRAFT