

Oxford Local Plan 2036

Examination Hearings

Written Statement by Vale of White Horse District Council in relation to:

Matter 1 The Local Housing Requirement

Whether the circumstances exist in Oxford to justify applying an approach that differs from the standard method of assessing local housing need, and whether it is appropriate to plan for a higher level of need than the standard model suggests.

Whether the evidence base, including the 2018 SHMA Update and the evidence of housing affordability and affordable housing need, support the continued use of 1,400 dwellings per annum (28,000 homes identified in the Growth Deal) as an overall housing requirement (before considering Oxford's capacity).

1. Subsequent to the Regulation 19 consultation on the emerging Oxford City Local Plan 2036, Vale of White Horse District Council adopted its Local Plan 2031 Part 2 on the 9 October 2019¹. The Vale of White Horse Local Plan Part 2 addresses the Vale's agreed apportionment of unmet housing need arising from Oxford City. Adoption of this plan demonstrates positive progress has been made towards meeting Vale's apportionment of 2,200 homes, as agreed through the Oxfordshire Growth Board². The Housing Needs Assessment used to inform the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 and the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal was the Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2014³ (SHMA) and the Council is supportive of meeting the housing need that arises from the SHMA across Oxfordshire.
2. We continue to support the cooperative approach that has been taken in regard to meeting the housing needs of the County. As set out in the Council's Regulation 19 response, the Council remains concerned regarding the City's update to the SHMA for the period 2016 to 2036. The Statement of Common Ground signed in March 2019⁴ sets out agreement that any assessment of housing need beyond 2031 would need to be established and agreed through a strategic and cooperative process. Any district or city specific assessment of

¹ Vale of White Horse Full Council Meeting, 9 October 2019, Agenda, decision and minutes available from <http://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=108&MID=2589#A129768>

² Oxfordshire Growth Board, Monday 26 September 2016, Agenda, decisions and minutes, available from: <http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=970&MId=5060&Ver=4>

³ Oxfordshire Strategic Market Housing Assessment 2014, available from <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/new-local-plan-2031/evidence-base/strategi>

⁴ Paragraph 3.5, Statement of Common Ground, available from http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/dynamic_serve.jsp?ID=1106723697&CODE=7844881723F687296346702048B4832A

housing need cannot be relied upon for planning outside of that district or city without strategic cooperative consideration through the Oxfordshire Growth Board, as stated at paragraph 3.5 of the Statement of Common Ground.