

Scrutiny Committee Supplementary Paper



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Report of Head of Planning Services

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To: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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Local Plan – Publication - Addendum

Recommendation

(c)To consider the petition received in respect of the proposed development at Chalgrove Airfield and provide comments to Cabinet.

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the petition received in respect of the proposed development at Chalgrove Airfield prior to this being debated at Cabinet and Council meetings.

Consultation responses to the Second Preferred Options & Petition

2. A petition was received by the Council on 19 August 2016 during the consultation on the Preferred Options document. The petition was worded as follows, “We the undersigned, strongly object to the proposed development of 3,500 homes on the Chalgrove Airfield and Harrington Field, as part of the SODC Local Plan 2032.”
3. At the time, this was recorded as a response to the Local Plan. As the petition has in excess of 500 signatures it is entitled to a debate at Council, in accordance with the Council’s Constitution.

4. At the time of the first Preferred Option consultation, the proposal in the emerging Local Plan was for 3,500 homes. This has since been reduced to 3,000 homes. It should also be noted that the Local Plan has been extended to cover the period 2011-2033.
5. Given that a strategic allocation comprising 3,000 new homes, 5 hectares of employment land and 3 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers at Chalgrove Airfield is proposed in the Local Plan, it is logical to consider the request of this petition alongside the next stage of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan process.
6. The Council within its planning framework does have the opportunity to designate land as it feels appropriate and such designations are then tested through public consultation and wider stakeholder engagement and through public inquiry.
7. The proposed strategic allocation at Chalgrove is one of four proposed in the emerging Local Plan. It accords with the overall spatial strategy for the distribution of development in South Oxfordshire, which seeks to strengthen the heart of the District.
8. It is considered to be suitable, available and achievable in the Council's assessment of land availability. It has the capacity to provide circa 3,000 new homes, including affordable homes, which is a considerable contribution towards the overall housing needs of the district.
9. The site is the only strategic allocation proposed which lies outside the existing Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
10. The site is a partially previously developed site, which is flat and relatively free from constraints. The relationship of the site to existing employment use is recognised to be a further positive to weigh in favour of development taking place at this location. Development at this location also has the potential to support the delivery of local infrastructure.
11. It is recommended that this proposed strategic allocation remains in the Local Plan.