

Inspector's Question 24

May I have the Council's observations on the alleged inconsistency between the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2017) and proposed allocation D-HAD007 noted in the representation (1750) from Christopher Roberts (30283)?

AVDC Response

In his representation Christopher Roberts notes that the IDP suggests a new primary school should be located at this allocation site, whilst the Proposed Submission Local Plan fails to recognise this.

The IDP sets out initially (in Table 1 and Table 3) that through early discussions with BCC it was identified that Haddenham primary schools are close to capacity and that further investment would be needed in Haddenham if this settlement was intended to become a strategic focus for housing growth. It was concluded that approximately 700 homes would be needed for a new school to be required. There was also an option of getting the existing school (St Mary's) to move to a 2FE combined school or alternatively getting a site within the proposed allocation HAD007.

The IDP then progresses into more detail and, based on the proposed locations of growth within the submission version of VALP, sets out the details of required provision for new and expanded schools in appendix A. This states that based on the VALP as actually submitted there is a short term need to expand the existing primary school in Haddenham, St Mary's, and this will be funded by developer contributions of £2m from the allocated site VALP as well as the existing committed sites. There is therefore no requirement in the IDP for a new school in Haddenham based on the submission VALP.

In terms of HAD007, the site is allocated for 315 dwellings, the site was assessed in the HELAA as part of a larger site. The assessment concluded that the site was only partially suitable due to landscape/visual impact and intrusion into the open countryside. The Strategic Landscape and Visual Capacity Study (CD.ENV.004) supported the view that the site was only developable in part and for the allocation it was considered that the site boundary should be drawn to be in line with the built-up boundary proposed on the approved scheme on the airfield to the south west. Therefore, the capacity of this site as allocated was insufficient to justify a new school. This conclusion is based on the opinion of the education authority.

An application is currently pending on the site of HAD007 which now has a reduced housing figure of 239 dwellings following further discussions around landscape and heritage constraints. Comments have been made on this application by BCC in relation to education. They set out BCC's proposal to expand the existing primary schools in the village and ask for a financial contribution towards this in conformity with the content of VALP and the IDP.

It is considered therefore that there is no inconsistency between the IDP and the proposed allocation.