From: To: Cc:

Subject: Consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications to the West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2039

Date:

Attachments:



This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. STOP. THINK before you CLICK links or OPEN attachments.

Dear Sirs

On behalf of our Client, The Wasing Estate, please find attached our representations on the Main Modifications consultation. In short, we continue to have concerns at the proposed spatial strategies disregard for the rural areas and failure to promote sustainable development in rural areas. This strategy continues to threaten the viability and vitality of rural communities and is a significant concern for the Estate in terms of its future ability to diversify and to attract and retain staff due to the lack of sufficient housing.

Should you have any queries, please do contact me.

Kind regards



Director

PRO VISION

PLANNING | ARCHITECTURE | URBAN DESIGN | ECOLOGY



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Representation Form

Ref:

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Please complete and	By email:
return this form:	By post : Planning Policy, Development and Housing, Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD
Return by:	11:59pm on Friday 31 January 2025

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^{*}Mandatory Field

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Your name or organisation	Pro Vision on behalf of The Wasing Estate
(and client if you are an	
agent):	

Proposed Main Modifications and Proposed Changes to the Policies Map

1. Please indicate whether your representation relates to the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications or the Schedule of Proposed Changes to the Policies Map and provide the modification/change number you are commenting on below:

Document name	Main Modifications
Modification/Change reference number (MM / PMC)	MM3 - Policy SP1: Spatial Strategy

2.	Do you consider the Proposed Main Modification or Proposed Policy Map	Change to be
a)	please tick/mark 'X' one answer for a and one for b)	

a) Legally compliant	Yes	No
b) Sound	Yes	No X

Please refer to the guidance notes for a full explanation of 'legally compliant' and 'soundness'

Positively Prepared: The LPR should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements.	
Justified: the LPR should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives	x
Effective: the LPR should be deliverable	X
Consistent with national policy: the LPR should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies of the NPPF	

3. If you have answered 'No' to question 2a or 2b above, please provide details of why you consider the Proposed Main Modification or Proposed Policy Map Change is not legally compliant or is unsound, including any changes you consider necessary to make the Plan legally compliant or sound.

You will need to say why this change will make the Local Plan Review legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Object (part)

We note the amendments to the settlement boundaries referenced in the fourth paragraph of the policy and while we have no specific objections to those amendments, we remain concerned that the spatial strategy and settlement hierarchy will not provide adequate opportunity for smaller, sustainable, rural villages which are deemed to fall below the service village level, to grow and prosper. The strategy does not therefore promote sustainable rural communities. This is inconsistent with the NPPF. We consider that the settlement boundaries of Aldermaston Wharf and Brimpton should have also been amended to include allocations which are appropriate to deliver housing opportunities to meet local needs in these villages as outlined in our Regulations 19 representations and Hearings/ Matter 3 Statement. We object to the narrow focus of the new text inserted under 'Eastern Area' which identifies the focus for housing development to be within the Eastern "Urban" Area "through existing commitments, allocated sites and regeneration and change in the existing built up area". This is an example of how the current strategy fails to adequately consider and provide for the housing need and growth for the rural areas/ smaller villages and their communities where they fall below the service village level.

Support (part)

We support the updated text in paragraph 6 which states "In making optimum use of land and achieving high quality design, density on individual sites will vary according to location and context, size of developable area and site-specific issue an access".

In summary, it remains the Wasing Estates strong view that this Local Plan fails to recognise the needs of rural communities and fails to plan to support sustainable growth in these areas. This will inevitably lead to a continual decline of local services in these areas and will make it increasingly difficult for rural businesses to attract and retain staff due to the lack of housing opportunities.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA)

4. Do you have any comments on the updated Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Report – Proposed Main Modifications (November 2024)? (Please be as precise as possible)

Page number		_	
Paragraph number			
Comments:			

the Proposed Main Modifications (November 2024)?

Page number				
Paragraph number				
Comments:				

5. Do you have any comments on the addendum to the Habitats Regulations Assessment of

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6. Do you wish to be notified of any of the following? (please tick/mark 'X' all that apply)

The publication of the report of the Inspector appointed to carry out the examination	X
The adoption of the Local Plan Review	X

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Signature	Katherine Miles	Date	31/01/2025
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Document name	Main Modifications
Modification/Change reference number (MM / PMC)	MM6 - Policy SP3: Settlement Hierarchy

2. Do you consider the Proposed Main Modification or Proposed Policy Map Change to k	e:
(please tick/mark 'X' one answer for a and one for b)	

a) Legally compliant	Yes	No
b) Sound	Yes	No X

Please refer to the guidance notes for a full explanation of 'legally compliant' and 'soundness'

Positively Prepared: The LPR should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements.	
Justified: the LPR should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives	x
Effective: the LPR should be deliverable	
Consistent with national policy: the LPR should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies of the NPPF	

3. If you have answered 'No' to question 2a or 2b above, please provide details of why you consider the Proposed Main Modification or Proposed Policy Map Change is not legally compliant or is unsound, including any changes you consider necessary to make the Plan legally compliant or sound.

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Object

The main modifications to this policy do not address our previous concerns that the policy fails to correctly categorise and recognise Aldermaston Wharf as a Service Village, thus rendering housing sites available for development in Aldermaston Wharf to be unsustainable and ruled out for allocation before they have even been considered. Our objections to this were discussed in detail in our Regulation 19 and Hearings/ Matters Statement 3. Aldermaston Wharf, and Brimpton both benefit from some services and facilities, as recognised by the Council in their evidence base, making it incorrect that these settlements are categorised as 'unsustainable'.

The settlement hierarchy continues to fail to adequately support provision for much needed housing in the District's rural towns and villages. The level of development which the plan permits in Aldermaston Wharf and Brimpton, both of which are classed as smaller settlements and fall "below the hierarchy" is not sufficient to support the growth required to ensure these villages remain sustainable.

Our clients land at BRIM1: Land East of Manor Farm, Brimpton and BRIM2: Land west of Manor Farm, Brimpton along with ALD5: Land west of Basingstoke Road, Aldermaston Wharf are available and suitable for residential development and their development would be consistent with the NPPF. The settlement boundaries of Aldermaston Wharf and Brimpton could be extended to include these sites enabling sustainable growth to these villages. Further details are set out in our Regulation 19 representations and Hearing Statement/Matters. We object to the text inserted which identifies that Neighbourhood Plans can only allocate non-strategic sites for development where they are "within and/or adjoining the settlement boundaries of Urban Areas, Rural Service Centres or Service Villages". This continues to preclude smaller villages like Aldermaston Wharf and Brimpton from identifying sustainable opportunities for growth to support the local housing need should a neighbourhood plan come forward in these areas. This paragraph should be amended to say "within and/or adjoining settlement boundaries where it can be demonstrated that the site would contribute to meeting local needs and the achievement of sustainable development" thus deleting the reference to Urban Areas, Rural Service Centres and Service Villages.

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Page number	
Paragraph	
number	

the Proposed Main Modifications (November 2024)?

Page number				
Paragraph number				
Comments:				

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6. Do you wish to be notified of any of the following? (please tick/mark 'X' all that apply)

The publication of the report of the Inspector appointed to carry out the examination	X
The adoption of the Local Plan Review	X

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Signature	Katherine Miles	Date	31/01/2025
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Document name	Main Modifications
Modification/Change reference number (MM / PMC)	MM18 - SP12 Approach to housing delivery

2.	Do you consider the Proposed Main Modification or Proposed Policy Map	Change to be
a)	please tick/mark 'X' one answer for a and one for b)	

a) Legally compliant	Yes	No
b) Sound	Yes	No X

Please refer to the guidance notes for a full explanation of 'legally compliant' and 'soundness'

Positively Prepared: The LPR should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements.	x
Justified: the LPR should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives	х
Effective: the LPR should be deliverable	X
Consistent with national policy: the LPR should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies of the NPPF	х

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Support (part) Objection (part)

We support the change to the plan period to 2041. While we also support the deletion of the target figure of 538 dwellings per annum and the increase in the minimum provision per annum to 515 dwellings which leads to a revised housing provision of 9,270, however we remain concerned that the minimum provision target is too low to deliver the minimum local housing need over the plan period. Our Regulation 19 representations and Hearing Statement (Hearing/Matter Statements 2, 3 & 7) elaborate on this further including the need for a buffer. Additional modifications i.e. further site allocations (or attribution of housing numbers) should be made within the Local Plan to ensure the local need is met and to make the plan sound. At present, the housing supply strategy continues to place an over-reliance on fewer larger sites in the main settlements of Newbury, Thatcham and the larger service villages and continues to fail to meet the housing needs of the rural communities.

Our clients land at BRIM1: Land East of Manor Farm, Brimpton and BRIM2: Land west of Manor Farm, Brimpton along with ALD5: Land west of Basingstoke Road, Aldermaston Wharf have not been allocated for housing. These sites are available and suitable for residential development and their development would be consistent with the NPPF which seeks for villages to grow and thrive. Further details are set out in our Regulation 19 representations and Matters Statements.

The plan has not therefore been positively prepared and remains unsound in our view.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA)

4. Do you have any comments on the updated Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Report – Proposed Main Modifications (November 2024)? (Please be as precise as possible)

Page number		
Paragraph number		
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Modification/Change reference number (MM / PMC)	MM19 - SP12 Approach to housing delivery

2.	Do you consider the Proposed Main Modification or Proposed Policy Map	Change to be
(p	please tick/mark 'X' one answer for a and one for b)	

a) Legally complian	t Yes	No
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Positively Prepared: The LPR should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements.	X
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consider the Propo	vered 'No' to question 2a or 2b above, please provide details of why you beed Main Modification or Proposed Policy Map Change is not legally sound, including any changes you consider necessary to make the Planer sound.
	why this change will make the Local Plan Review legally compliant or sound. ou are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text e as possible.
Support (part)	
requirement as a m minimum provision out in our comment	addition of the supporting text "Policy SP12 expresses the housing ninimum of 515 dwellings per annum", notwithstanding that we consider the target figure is too low to adequately meet the local housing need (as set to son MM18) we support the fact that the 515 figure is expressed as a of dwellings per annum.
	raisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA)
	comments on the updated Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic sessment Report – Proposed Main Modifications (November 2024)? se as possible)
Page number	
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Document name	Main Modifications
Modification/Change reference number (MM / PMC)	MM30

2. Do you consider the Proposed Main Modification or Proposed Policy Map Change to k	e:
(please tick/mark 'X' one answer for a and one for b)	

a) Legally compliant	Yes	No
b) Sound	Yes	No X

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Positively Prepared: The LPR should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements.		
Justified: the LPR should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives	x	
Effective: the LPR should be deliverable		
Consistent with national policy: the LPR should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies of the NPPF	x	

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Support (part)

We support the increase in the floorspace requirement for additional office and industrial floorspace across the plan period.

However, we remain concerned that no further site allocations for additional office and industrial floorspace have been made to the plan despite the significant shortfall against the identified need.

Our client's land at Larkwhistle Farm, Brimpton Common (ref. BRIM3) has not been identified or allocated as an employment site, as promoted. It is available and suitable for office and/or industrial use. Further details are set out in our Regulation 19 representations and Hearing Statements (matters 1, 2, 3 and 11).

The modification to Policy SP20 does not address these concerns on the lack of site allocations to meet the identified need; additional allocations are necessary to ensure a positively prepared plan with regard to meeting economic development needs. The plan therefore remains unsound in our view.

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Page number			
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Modification/Change reference number (MM / PMC)	MM31

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legally compliant or sound.

You will need to say why this change will make the Local Plan Review legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Support	
We support the increase in the plan period from 2039 to 2041, and clarification of the de of the use classes.	finition

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA)

4. Do you have any comments on the updated Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Report – Proposed Main Modifications (November 2024)? (Please be as precise as possible)

Page number			
Paragraph number			
number			
Comments:			

the Proposed Main Modifications (November 2024)? (Please be as precise as possible)				
Page number				
Paragraph				

5. Do you have any comments on the addendum to the Habitats Regulations Assessment of

Paragraph number		
Comments:		

Notification of Progress of the Local Plan Review

6. Do you wish to be notified of any of the following? (please tick/mark 'X' all that apply)

The publication of the report of the Inspector appointed to carry out the examination	X
The adoption of the Local Plan Review	X

Please ensure that we have either an up-to-date email address or postal address at which we can contact you. You can amend your contact details by logging onto your account on the Local Plan Consultation Portal or by contacting the Planning Policy Team.

Signature	Katherine Miles	Date	31/01/2025
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Representation Form

Ref:

(For official use only)

Please complete and	By email:
return this form:	By post : Planning Policy, Development and Housing, Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD
Return by:	11:59pm on Friday 31 January 2025

Please read the **Guidance Note**, available on the Council's website https://www.westberks.gov.uk/lpr-proposed-main-modifications, before making your representations.

This form has two parts:

PART A - Your details

PART B – Your representation(s)

Please complete a new form for each representation you wish to make.

PART A: Your details Please note the following: We cannot register your representation without your details. Representations cannot be kept confidential and will be available for public scrutiny, however, your contact details will not be published. 1. Your details 2. Agent's details (if applicable) Title Miss First Name* Katherine Last Name* Miles Job title Director (where relevant) Organisation The Wasing Estate Pro Vision (where relevant) Address* The Estate Office, Wasing The Lodge, Highcroft Road, Winchester, Please include Park, Aldermaston, RG7 4NG SO22 5GU postcode Email address* Telephone number Consultee ID (if known)

^{*}Mandatory Field

PART B - Your representation(s)

All comments made at previous stages of the LPR have been taken into account by the Inspector and there is no need to resubmit these. Publication of the proposed Main Modifications is a regulatory stage and any representations made should relate specifically to the legal compliance and soundness of the proposed Main Modifications and should not relate to parts of the Plan that are not proposed to be modified.

Please note your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested change.

Your name or organisation	Pro Vision on behalf of The Wasing Estate
(and client if you are an	· ·
agent):	

Proposed Main Modifications and Proposed Changes to the Policies Map

1. Please indicate whether your representation relates to the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications or the Schedule of Proposed Changes to the Policies Map and provide the modification/change number you are commenting on below:

Document name	Main Modifications
Modification/Change reference number (MM / PMC)	MM32

2. Do you consider the Proposed Main Modification or Proposed Policy Map Change to k	e:
(please tick/mark 'X' one answer for a and one for b)	

a) Legally compliant	Yes	No
b) Sound	Yes	No X

Please refer to the guidance notes for a full explanation of 'legally compliant' and 'soundness'

Positively Prepared: The LPR should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements.		
Justified: the LPR should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives	x	
Effective: the LPR should be deliverable		
Consistent with national policy: the LPR should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies of the NPPF		

3. If you have answered 'No' to question 2a or 2b above, please provide details of why you consider the Proposed Main Modification or Proposed Policy Map Change is not legally compliant or is unsound, including any changes you consider necessary to make the Plan legally compliant or sound.

You will need to say why this change will make the Local Plan Review legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Support (part)

We support the deletion of Policy SP21 which removes unnecessary duplication. However, this modification does not address our comments made in our Regulation 19 representations and Hearing Statements (matter 1, 2, 3 and 11) regarding the plan not allocating sufficient employment land to meet needs, and therefore the plan remains unsound in our view.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA)

4. Do you have any comments on the updated Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Report – Proposed Main Modifications (November 2024)? (Please be as precise as possible)

Page number			
Paragraph number			
Comments:			

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Paragraph		

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The adoption of the Local Plan Review	X

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Signature	Katherine Miles	Date	31/01/2025
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Proposed Main Modifications and Proposed Changes to the Policies Map

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Document name	Main Modifications
Modification/Change reference number (MM / PMC)	MM93

2. Do you consider the Proposed Main Modification or Proposed Policy Map Change to k	e:
(please tick/mark 'X' one answer for a and one for b)	

a) Legally compliant	Yes	No
b) Sound	Yes	No X

Please refer to the guidance notes for a full explanation of 'legally compliant' and 'soundness'

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Consistent with national policy: the LPR should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies of the NPPF	

	why this change will make the Local Plan Review legally compliant or sound. ou are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. e as possible.
We support the cla	rification of the definition of the use classes.
4. Do you have any	raisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) v comments on the updated Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic sessment Report – Proposed Main Modifications (November 2024)? se as possible)
Page number	
Paragraph number	
Comments:	

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Page number		
Paragraph		

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Comments:		

Notification of Progress of the Local Plan Review

6. Do you wish to be notified of any of the following? (please tick/mark 'X' all that apply)

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The adoption of the Local Plan Review	X

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Signature	Katherine Miles	Date	31/01/2025
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PART B – Your representation(s)

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Proposed Main Modifications and Proposed Changes to the Policies Map

1. Please indicate whether your representation relates to the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications or the Schedule of Proposed Changes to the Policies Map and provide the modification/change number you are commenting on below:

Document name	Main Modifications
Modification/Change reference number (MM / PMC)	MM96 and MM96

2.	. Do you consider the Proposed Main Modification or Proposed Policy Map	Change to be
(p	please tick/mark 'X' one answer for a and one for b)	

a) Legally compliant	Yes	No
b) Sound	Yes	No X

Please refer to the guidance notes for a full explanation of 'legally compliant' and 'soundness'

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Justified: the LPR should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives	x	
Effective: the LPR should be deliverable	x	
Consistent with national policy: the LPR should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies of the NPPF	x	

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Object

The change to criteria (a) of policy DM35 from 'long term' to 'positive' contribution is an improvement. However, we do not support the changes to the associated supporting text (paragraph 12.20) which states that 'supporting evidence will be provided with a planning application' to demonstrate the positive impact. The supporting text suggests business plans and estate plans as forms of supporting evidence, which is more onerous than the NPPF policy on the rural economy, and could preclude proposals for economic development coming forward.

No changes have been made to parts d), h), j) of policy DM35. We maintain changes are necessary as set out in our Regulation 19 representations and Hearing Statement matter 11.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA)

4. Do you have any comments on the updated Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Report – Proposed Main Modifications (November 2024)? (Please be as precise as possible)

Page number				
Paragraph number				
Comments:	•			

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Signature	Katherine Miles	Date	31/01/2025
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