

AVDC Update

Last summer we undertook public consultation on a draft Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP). This involved a flyer to all households in the Vale, ten public consultation events, static exhibitions and coverage in the local media. As part of our process of continuous quality checking, it has come to our attention that some local plan consultees may not have received specifically addressed communication at the time the draft VALP was published for consultation last summer.

In case you had not been aware that the plan had been published for consultation, we are giving you the opportunity to comment now on **the draft VALP** (see link below) before it is finalised in the next few months. If you have already responded, please be assured that your comments are being taken into account and there is no need to comment again.

Please note that there have been a number of significant changes to the context of the draft plan since it was published last year, including:

- The total number of houses we now need to plan for has reduced from 33,000 to around 27,000 due to an update to our housing requirements, following new household and population projections which were published last year. Also, the other local planning authorities which are asking us to accommodate some of their housing need (due to national constraints) have found some additional capacity.
- As a result of the reduction in our housing figures, we are reconsidering whether a new settlement is needed for this plan period, and will therefore be suggesting that this should be deferred until we know the route of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway.
- We have moved away from the percentage approach to apportioning development to settlements, and instead are looking at a capacity-led approach. This essentially means that allocations will be made where there are suitable sites in sustainable locations, rather than applying a blanket housing requirement depending on the settlement size.
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The changes are set out in more detail in the **December 2016 VALP Scrutiny Committee minutes (separate document)**

These changes will be reflected in the next stage of the draft plan - known as the proposed submission plan. This will be the council's 'final' plan and will be published for comment after it is finalised in the next few months. There will therefore be a formal opportunity to comment on the above issues, along with the rest of the content of the proposed submission plan, in the summer of this year. We will notify you when the proposed submission plan is published for comment and you may wish to reserve your comments until the new plan is available.

<https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/vale-aylesbury-local-plan-draft-plan>