



THAMES VALLEY

Please reply to:

Andrew McCallum
Thames Valley Branch Secretary
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23rd February 2024

Dear Sirs,

JOINT LOCAL PLAN - SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE AND VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCILS

POLICY IN3 - TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFEGUARDING

RAIL RELATED OPTIONS.

I am writing on behalf of Railfuture* Thames Valley and thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed local plan.

We would firstly like to take the opportunity to thank those involved for the hard work that has gone into getting the plan to this stage; we have no concerns with the positive approach to transport planning and the preferred options.

However, Railfuture is concerned that the plans for Wantage Grove Station have been made on the assumption that the existing former station site will be re-opened (Site C) and will provide protection for this, which of course we welcome. However, the most recent study WANTAGE & GROVE STATION STATEMENT OF OPINION REPORT – AUGUST 2018, suggests 3 sites with high potential, C, E and F.

At this stage we ask that sites C, E and F are all protected and that the District Council works proactively with Oxfordshire County Council and Network Rail to identify a preferred site.

Railfuture welcomes the recognition of the importance of Culham as part of the transport strategy in the local plan, both for new housing development and employment at the Culham Campus; we note that usage is increasing significantly at present at this station as Culham Campus expands.

We also welcome the reference to extending the East West Rail Services to Didcot and feel this would improve connectivity and reduce car dependence.

We look forward to the above being taken into consideration and the completion of the Local plan.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Stow

Chairman
Railfuture Thames Valley Branch

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** Railfuture is a national voluntary organisation, campaigning for improved rail services and promotion of the contribution rail can make to sustainable transport. In the Thames Valley we have several hundred members, including the affiliation of most local Rail User Groups. We are independent of the industry, political parties and trades unions, and always seek to put rail users first, be they freight or passengers.*