

Part B – Please use a separate sheet for each representation

Name or Organisation:

Vale of Berkeley Railway Trust

3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

The Berkeley Cluster

Paragraph Policy Policies Map

4. Do you consider the Local Plan is :

4.(1) Legally compliant	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.(2) Sound	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox" value="NO"/>
4 (3) Complies with the Duty to co-operate	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please tick as appropriate

5. Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.

If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

We note the inclusion in the Local Plan of mention of a 'Restored Heritage Railway' but there is no evidence that the aims of the Vale of Berkeley Railway have been taken specifically into account by the planners. Consequently, we consider that The Local Plan is **unsound** in the following respects:

1. the inclusion of a specific location for a new station (p180) cannot be justified as sound since the Vale of Berkeley Railway Trust has never been consulted formally on this proposal. We are, in fact, opposed to this particular location for a number of technical, practical and other reasons and we would like to propose alternative proposals for discussion.
2. There is no mention of, or support expressed for, the VoBRT's existing work to develop and rebuild Berkeley station as a local community resource and heritage centre, despite much local support for this, including that from local Stroud DC councillors. None of the VoBRT's plans for this valuable and attractive amenity are mentioned in the Local Plan nor have our views been sought formally at any stage.

3. There is no mention, or support expressed, for the VoBRT's ambition to run tourist passenger services between stations at Sharpness and Berkeley within the next 5 years and beyond Berkeley towards Berkeley Road within the lifetime of the plan, despite this being a stated aim in the 'Restoring Your Railway' submission to DfT, endorsed by Stroud DC.

4. There is no mention of VoBR's intention to support the aims of the Local Plan by working jointly with other tourism providers (e.g. Cattle Country, Berkeley Castle) to encourage visitors to the area despite national recognition of the significant beneficial role that heritage railways play in this (Ref: Parliamentary Committee Report 2013).

5. There has been no formal consultation with VoBR regarding the potential for the provision of public rail transport other than our involvement in the recent Restoring Your Railway bid.

(Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

6. Please set out the modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant and sound, in respect of any legal compliance or soundness matters you have identified at 5 above. (Please note that non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why each modification will make the Local Plan 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.

The following revisions/amendments will make the Plan sounder because they recognise that there needs to be more local consultation regarding railway developments beyond the acceptance of the existing proposals emanating from consultants working for the Sharpness Vale housing development.

1. Removal of the graphic on p 180 showing the location of a new station at Sharpness.

Suggested wording: "The final location of a station at Sharpness shall be decided following consultation between housing developers, the Vale of Berkeley Railway Trust and other local stakeholders".

2. Add supportive detail to the mention in the plan (p164) of a 'restored heritage railway' by consulting formally with the Vale of Berkeley Railway Trust regarding its future plans to support the growth of tourism in Berkeley Vale and supporting those aims in the local plan.

Suggested Wording: "The Vale of Berkeley Railway Trust is supporting the aims of the Local Plan by creating a heritage railway on the Sharpness branch line, initially between Sharpness and Berkeley and later as far as Berkeley Road, linking with other local attractions. This will provide a strong focus for new visitors to come to the Berkeley Vale area".

3. Add support for the rebuilding of Berkeley station as a local community resource.

Suggested Wording: "The complete rebuilding and development of Berkeley station as a local heritage attraction, community resource and possible public transport amenity by the VoBRT is supported as a significant focus for future increases in tourist visitors to the area and provides the possibility for providing a future local public rail service for the town."

(Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

Please note In your representation you should provide succinctly all the evidence and supporting information necessary to support your representation and your suggested modification(s). You should not assume that you will have a further opportunity to make submissions.

After this stage, further submissions may only be made if invited by the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he or she identifies for examination.

7. If your representation is seeking a modification to the plan, do you consider it necessary to participate in examination hearing session(s)?

No, I do not wish to participate in hearing session(s)

 YES

Yes, I wish to participate in hearing session(s)

Please note that while this will provide an initial indication of your wish to participate in hearing session(s), you may be asked at a later point to confirm your request to participate.

8. If you wish to participate in the hearing session(s), please outline why you consider this to be necessary:

The VoBRT wishes to work closely with Stroud DC to contribute to the effective delivery of the Local Plan. We would welcome the opportunity to engage with Councillors and Planning Officers in a face-to-face manner.

Please note the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate in hearing session(s). You may be asked to confirm your wish to participate when the Inspector has identified the matters and issues for examination.

9. Signature:

Date:

20/07/21