

County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND

Planning Policy
South Oxfordshire District Council
Attn: Holly Jones, Planning Policy Manager

**Director for Planning and Place
– Susan Halliwell**

28 March 2019

Planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk

Dear Holly

**South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034 – Housing Infrastructure Bid Success –
Letter for Examination of Local Plan**

We are pleased that in the Spring Statement of 13th March, the Government announced that Oxfordshire County Council has successfully secured £218m from the Housing Infrastructure Fund to invest in Didcot Garden Town.

The funding will be used for the delivery of transport projects which include:

- A4130 widening from A34 Milton Interchange towards Didcot;
- A new “Science Bridge” over the A4130, Great Western Railway Line and Milton Road into the former Didcot A Power Station site;
- A new Culham to Didcot river crossing between the A415 and A4130; and
- A Clifton Hampden Bypass

You have asked for a letter about this for the Examination of the Local Plan. We are happy to provide this.

A copy of the press release providing some more information and a map is available at: <http://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/didcot-garden-town-oxfordshire-county-council-secures-218m-for-major-transport-improvements/>

Paragraph 7 of our response on the Pre-Submission Local Plan 2034 says:
'Oxfordshire County Council is supportive of how the Local Plan looks to strengthen Science Vale and access to Didcot through strategic sites that can contribute to the local and national economy and meet housing need. This in turn can contribute to the major infrastructure investment needed for this part of the county. Without critical national funding to match this local ambition, the Local Plan will struggle to meet its vision and the county will suffer. The County Council will maintain objections as Highways Authority where necessary, and we note that the Planning Inspectorate has recently supported decisions refusing planning applications for small developments on sites in Sutton Courtenay regarded as having a severe impact on the highways network in the absence of additional infrastructure. The Housing Infrastructure Fund bid for Didcot Garden Town is essential to holding this Local Plan together. The Outline Business Case was submitted on 25th January 2019 ahead of the submission deadline, and Oxfordshire County Council is working on the assumption that a funding decision

will be made in time to give critical support during the Examination of this Plan – without this we will need to revisit our assumptions and it may be that the Plan will need to be amended.'

Given the funding decision, we are confident that we are now able to give South Oxfordshire District Council support on this issue during the Examination of this Local Plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Sue Halliwell', followed by a period. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sue Halliwell

Director of Planning & Place

Email: Susan.Halliwell@oxfordshire.gov.uk