

**Councillor Jane Murphy
Leader of the Council**

leader@southoxon.gov.uk

Tel: 01235 422082
135 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park
Oxon
OX14 4SB

14 August 2018

Dear Rt. Hon. Kit Malthouse MP,

RE: Ambitious Housing Growth in the OxCam Corridor

Thank you for your letter dated 26 July and the continued dialogue regarding the proposed expressway.

I would welcome your clarification for the justification of the one million new homes proposed across the corridor and what, if any, geographical distribution is expected. I wish also to clarify whether the one million new homes by 2050 includes the existing ambitious planned growth, particularly for the Oxfordshire authorities, who have signed up to a Housing and Growth Deal (2018).

Further to your invitation, we are currently undertaking a review of strategic housing sites for the South Oxfordshire Local Plan with a timetable that seeks to submit the plan for examination in March 2019. Officers have commenced work on the necessary review of sites which could be capable of providing a strategic allocation. This timetable accords with the milestones set out in the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal agreed between the partner Oxfordshire authorities and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to accelerate the delivery of housing and help ensure we get “early” deliverability.

The timescales we are working to are focussed on preparing a Publication version of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan and this does not appear to align with the expected announcement of the OxCam corridor, now delayed to Autumn 2018. Until the route of the expressway is known, I am surprised that your invitation for the identification of potential new settlements has been raised.

We are keen to continue working with colleagues to deliver the growth deal and look forward to preparing the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan for Oxfordshire – an avenue through which new settlements might be more appropriately explored.

I would like to seek an assurance from you that Government would not impose new settlements and I would welcome further opportunities for engagement in the process and for further consultation on the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford Corridor.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Murphy', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Jane Murphy
Leader of the Council