



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP**

*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and  
Local Government*

Cllr Sue Cooper  
Leader  
South Oxfordshire District Council  
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Dear Sue

9 October 2019

Following South Oxfordshire District Council Cabinet's decision on 3 October to recommend withdrawing the emerging South Oxfordshire Local Plan ("the Plan"), I am considering whether to give a direction to South Oxfordshire District Council in relation to the Plan under section 21 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 ("the 2004 Act").

The government remains committed to making sure every community has an up-to-date and sufficiently ambitious Local Plan. Withdrawing the Plan at this stage is instead likely to create uncertainty and expose communities to speculative planning applications.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers under section 21A of the 2004 Act (inserted by section 145(5) of the Housing and Planning Act 2016), I hereby direct South Oxfordshire District Council not to take any step in connection with the adoption of the Plan, while I consider the matter further. This direction will remain in force until I withdraw it or give a direction under section 21 of the 2004 Act in relation to the Plan.

I would like to work constructively with you to ensure that South Oxfordshire is able to deliver the high-quality homes and infrastructure required to support jobs and growth in the local community. As I set out in my letter to you on 26 August 2019, progressing the Plan is an essential step to delivering the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. I have therefore asked my officials to get in touch with your officers to discuss next steps and will keep you updated while I consider this matter further.

**RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP**