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Listening Learning Leading  
**Mark Stone**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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Our ref: MS/EM432020

4 March 2020

Dear Emran

**Submitted South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034**

I write with reference to the Secretary of State's Direction, 3 March 2020 and previous correspondence on the Local Plan 2034.

In order to help take this forward, I have met with my senior team on how we will now progress the submitted Local Plan 2034 in accordance with the Direction.

In light of the Secretary of State's Direction, it would be helpful to meet you and your colleagues to discuss the reporting arrangements and how we will offer you assurance that we are meeting the timescale and wider requirements set out in the Secretary of State's letter.

As you are aware from previous conversations, the Council is involved in various wider planning issues such as the Ox-Cam Arc, Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and working in partnership on the Housing and Growth Deal. We want to support this without affecting the local plan examination process.

To achieve this, our priority is to ensure that we have a dedicated professional planning team to deliver the Local Plan in accordance with the Direction, which is fully resourced with clear leadership to support the examination process.

I also intend to take forward a ring-fenced team to help address the Council's aspirations and concerns around environmental standards (climate change), regeneration and housing delivery and explore how best to achieve this through the local planning process.

Additionally, we will also continue with a small team that will work on the Ox-Cam Arc and the Housing and Growth Deal to ensure we contribute proactively.

I hope this is helpful to explain the approach that I intend to take, and I look forward to hearing from you to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely

Mark Stone  
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