

**County Hall  
New Road  
Oxford  
OX1 1NE**

Councillor Sue Cooper  
Leader  
South Oxfordshire District Council

**Councillor Ian Hudspeth  
Leader**

**10th July 2019**

By email

Dear Sue

### **South Oxfordshire Local Plan Progress**

I understand your Cabinet and Council are looking to make a decision on South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan. I appreciate your wish to consider all the options available to you and your council. I have instructed my officers to work collaboratively with you in this process to ensure both Councils' interests are protected and to ensure we get the best result for Oxfordshire residents. I will also make myself readily available to support you in resolving this situation to ensure we retain the opportunity for infrastructure funding.

The County Council has worked closely with all the District and City Councils in securing significant infrastructure investment into the county including establishing the Housing & Growth Deal. We encourage and would support you in your Council's continued cooperation in delivering against these funding streams.

You will recall how winning the HIF bid for the Didcot Garden Town was a major success. We have only been successful in progressing one other HIF bid submission for the County, the A40 Smart Corridor, and are awaiting a decision on that from government. The Didcot Garden Town HIF is for £218m towards a total of £234m to deliver: A4130 widening from the Milton Interchange; linking with a new Science Bridge over the A4130 and railway line linking to the Didcot Northern Perimeter Road A4130; a new Didcot to Culham river crossing between the A4130 and A415; and a Clifton Hampden Bypass from the A415.

These local improvements for Didcot will enable better travel options for those travelling across the local network including by public transport, cycling and walking. South Oxfordshire is suffering from a lack of investment into infrastructure and these improvements have been identified as being necessary for some years – for example they were identified as necessary for the Vale of White Horse Local Plan Part 1 which is now adopted and also feature in our Local Transport Plan. However, the awarding of the bid by government was based not only on the development already committed, but also on some proposed allocations as set out in your officer's report.

The geographical area that will be affected by negative transport impacts from the failure to deliver essential highway infrastructure is wide, and spans District borders. The

potential number of housing land supply sites that may be lost, should HIF infrastructure not be delivered, could be significant.

As we're both aware good planning with the appropriate infrastructure will enable us collectively to deliver thriving communities. To do this a sound Local Plan needs to be in place. Myself and my officers will continue to work with your Council to find a suitable way forward, to get the best possible outcome for our residents.

Yours sincerely



Ian Hudspeth  
Leader

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