



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

*Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government*

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4 June 2021

Mark Stone
Chief Executive
South Oxfordshire District Council
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Milton
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mark.stone@southandvale.gov.uk

Dear Mark,

The Minister for Housing, the Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP, has asked me to write to you to congratulate you on your successful bid for funding through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Garden Communities Programme.

After a competitive process, South Oxfordshire District Council has been awarded £125,000 at Didcot Garden Community and £150,000 at Berinsfield Garden community to bring forward housing.

The Minister is delighted to note the work you are doing to support the delivery of housing in your area and, as major landowners, local authorities have a vital role to play in supporting the government's ambition to deliver 300,000 homes per year.

Delivering a garden community carries significant costs which go beyond the typical remit of local authorities, and providing this capacity funding ensures that the places we are supporting have the resources to fulfil their place-making ambitions. It could be used, for example, to fund the dedicated staff teams, holistic master-planning work, and key studies and assessments needed to underpin delivery. Other aspects of our support offer include expert delivery advice from Homes England and cross-government brokerage to resolve barriers to delivery.

Locally-led garden communities are vital to delivering the transformational housing growth that this country so badly needs, whilst ensuring surrounding existing communities can also benefit from growth through well planned infrastructure and community amenities.

The Minister therefore commends the ambition shown by South Oxfordshire District Council and is delighted that this funding will help you to deliver your ambitious plans.

Virtual roundtable

The Minister and I look forward to hearing how your plans progress and encourage you to share your learning with others in due course. To facilitate this, I would like to invite you to a

virtual roundtable event later in the year to hear more about your projects and to share best practice approaches. My team will be in touch with further details in due course.

I would be grateful if you would share this letter with your local MP(s).

Congratulations again on the funding award and the Minister extends his thanks for the work you are doing to raise the supply of homes in this country.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. Francis', written in black ink on a white background. The signature is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Cathy Francis
Director of Housing Delivery
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government