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**Councillor Sue Cooper
Leader of the Council**

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Dear Ms Newman,

I am writing on behalf of South Oxfordshire Council to highlight the difficulties that Oxfordshire is experiencing in delivering local health services and infrastructure. The current system is failing to deliver for residents and leaving many of our communities ill-served – a situation that is only likely to worsen as additional housing increases levels of demand.

As a council, we believe that healthcare services and infrastructure should be delivered alongside or ahead of new housing. The current structures and frameworks for the delivery of these amenities, however, are simply not fit for purpose and instead create and/or aggravate existing infrastructure deficits.

With proposals now being brought forward for the abolition of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG), the opportunity exists for the creation of a system which values the importance of working with local planning authorities. It is only by being cognisant of the views and requirements of residents and communities that the necessary healthcare provision can be provided. We, therefore, urge you to put effective, coordinated and collaborative working at the forefront of any new local healthcare system.

South Oxfordshire is committed to working in a constructive manner with our healthcare partners. In May, I met – along with supporting officers – Directors from the Oxfordshire CCG. We hope this was a productive encounter which is leading to useful ongoing officer liaison and potentially a better service for our residents.

As Buckinghamshire CCG has responsibilities for the provision of healthcare for some of our communities, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you. We would particularly like to discuss:

1. How we can foster a better working relationship between our two organisations.

2. How we can ensure that the CCG takes a more proactive approach to our planning processes and responds in a timely and ongoing basis to planning application consultations.
3. How we can work with the CCG to ensure healthcare needs are included in S106 agreements and that the associated monies are spent in a timely manner.
4. How the CCG can engage more proactively with the planning authority to better plan healthcare for strategic housing sites in South Oxfordshire.
5. How the CCG uses population forecasts to plan primary healthcare, and what its plans are for Oxfordshire.

By working together, we can improve the current situation and provide the health services and infrastructure that the residents of South Oxfordshire deserve. I, therefore, look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Sue Cooper
Leader of the Council