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**Councillor David Rouane  
Leader of the Council**

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11 October 2022

Dear Liz,

I have been made aware that Oxfordshire County Council is considering whether to submit an Expression of Interest for the establishment of a number of Investment Zones across Oxfordshire.

Whilst the Government have not provided all the detail as yet on Investment Zones, from what they have provided to date, it is difficult to see how they fit with the principles of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision or the policies for 'Achieving Good Growth' which have been agreed by all of the Oxfordshire councils.

In South Oxfordshire we want to see growth through high value-added businesses, fuelled by technology and skills, not low value unfettered development. The lifting of planning regulations suggested clearly goes against our countywide firm commitments on climate and environment in the agreed vision. The Government guidance suggests "Investment Zones will particularly support regeneration of undeveloped and under-developed areas", this is clearly not the case in Oxfordshire where we have low unemployment and a good track record of housing delivery.

Clearly it is for other districts to decide whether they want to be part of a submission, but I urge you as the upper tier authority to consider the impact that any bid will have on the neighbouring districts in Oxfordshire. I am particularly concerned about any proposals which may be mooted by Oxford City Council in relation to sites bordering South Oxfordshire which would clearly have an impact on development in our district.

I urge you to reconsider whether Investment Zones are truly the right approach to delivering the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision?

Yours sincerely



**Councillor David Rouane  
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