

Dear ALL

With the change of councillors in SODC after the recent local elections, the new Lib-Dem and Green leaders of SODC are reviewing the Local Plan 2034. On **Thursday 18 July** there will be a full meeting of the Council to pass a resolution about changes to it.

See <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/news/2019/2019-06/south-oxfordshire-councillors-consider-local-plan-options>.

They are looking at four options.

- **Option 1** – make no changes to the plan and allow it to continue to be examined by the government’s independent inspectors.
- **Option 2** – allow the plan to continue to be examined by the government’s inspectors but recommend a series of main modifications that will be considered by the inspectors.
- **Option 3** – withdraw the plan, revise it, and then resubmit the revised plan following an additional public consultation.
- **Option 4** - withdraw the plan and start the whole plan-making process from the beginning.

Council officers have recommended councillors choose **Option 1**.

Michael Tyce of CPRE wrote yesterday:

“At the Scrutiny Meeting this week Councillors did in fact **vote against** officers recommendation for **Option 1** though also deciding that the committee papers were too late for them to consider the other options. Option 4 is to withdraw and rewrite the Plan and is the most attractive to us of the options suggested. But since SODC already has an adopted plan to 2027 - which contains no Green Belt releases except at Berinsfield, and satisfies the Governments five year housing supply requirement until 2025 at least - there is a “fifth way”., which is to withdraw the new Local Plan and fall back on the existing adopted Plan, actually called the Core Strategy, and there is no need to think about preparing a new Plan at all until the early 20s to take over when the adopted Core Strategy expires.

Certainly it would be sensible to start any new Plan until the outcome of the Inspector’s Enquiry into the Oxford City Plan has established whether in fact there is any unmet need at all and there is clarity on the route of OxCam or indeed whether it is to go ahead. If of course there is no or little Oxford unmet need there would be no case for even considering including the urban edge Green Belt sites.

Another advantage of simply falling back on the existing adopted Local Plan (actually called the Core Strategy) would be no immediate need for new Consultations or Enquiries.”

However, as has been stated, the Lib Dems were elected partly on a ticket of re-visiting the Local Plan, especially its impact on the Green Belt, so **this is our chance to influence the debate: please tell the councillors which option you think they should choose. They want to hear from us!**

Write in particular to the cabinet members: sue.cooper@southoxon.gov.uk, (new leader);
david.turner@southoxon.gov.uk; Sue.Roberts@southoxon.gov.uk;
Robin.Bennett@southoxon.gov.uk, Leigh.Rawlins@southoxon.gov.uk;
David.Rouane@southoxon.gov.uk.

Also write to , sarah.gray@southoxon.gov.uk and alexandrine.kantor@southoxon.gov.uk . For emails of other councillors, see <http://democratic.southoxon.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>

I attach some notes from Lisa Buchan, at Elsfield, who has kindly highlighted the issues that affect LNBB to help with any Comments.

I also attach a copy of the Inspectors' Report on the Oxford City Plan 2016 in which they question the housing numbers for Oxford and building on the Green Belt.

This Is Oxfordshire Article: <https://www.thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/news/17718181.south-oxfordshire-local-plan-for-housing-could-be-restarted/?ref=mr&lp=5>

Please, if you have time, send an email to one or all of the above councillors expressing your views! Any problems etc, please contact me.

Many thanks.

Best wishes
David

PS I am emailing from my new Parish Council address!

David Adams
Parish Councillor - Sandhills

T: 01865 428618 | **M:** 07766 251391

E: david.adams@risinghurstandsandhills-pc.gov.uk | **W:** <http://www.risinghurstandsandhills-pc.gov.uk/>