

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Communities and Local
Government
Department for Communities and Local Government
4th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Councillor Matthew Barber
Leader of the Council
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21 November 2017

Dear Secretary of State

I support the outline agreement for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal with Government. I welcome the continued collaboration between the Oxfordshire authorities and Government through the deal's delivery plan over the details of how we can continue to successfully deliver the much needed new homes in our county. I recognise that this is an important time for Oxfordshire to enable growth in our communities in return for significant financial investment and flexibilities.

In supporting the outline agreement, I would highlight some key issues:

I welcome the funding package provided through the deal. In light of the county's local priorities and back-log of infrastructure funding, I note that the deal does not preclude Oxfordshire authorities from bidding for future Government funding outside of the deal.

I am pleased with the recognition in the outline agreement that planning for this level of ambition takes time to result in increased delivery on the ground and that these ambitions should be supported during the preparation of the joint statutory spatial plan. I welcome the commitment through the deal to explore options to help ensure that the existing housing land supply position is not undermined, and explore the impact of unplanned development whilst maintaining delivery as measured by the proposed housing delivery test. I also welcome the commitment that to offer greater certainty for the adopted JSSP, Government will also explore options to adjust the consequences of the housing delivery test that are proposed to apply after 2020, in the first three years following adoption of the JSSP.

My council's intention is that the JSSP is prepared under section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. My council does not support preparation of a plan under section 29 of the 2004 Act.

As outlined in the deal agreement, financial investment from government will be linked to specific sites and milestones to be set out in the delivery plan that will be agreed between the Oxfordshire authorities, the Government and the HCA.

I welcome confirmation in the outline agreement that until the joint statutory spatial plan for Oxfordshire is adopted, all existing plans and national policy continue to provide the basis for decision-making in Oxfordshire.

The full deal agreement remains subject to a full Council decision in February 2018 following confirmation of the delivery plan.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MB', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matthew Barber
Leader Vale of White Horse District Council

cc Ed Vaizey MP
 Layla Moran MP
 Cllr Bob Price
 Cllr Ian Hudspeth
 Cllr James Mills
 Cllr Barry Wood
 Cllr John Cotton