



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Leader, Oxfordshire County Council
Leader, West Oxfordshire District Council
Leader, Cherwell District Council
Leader, Vale of White Horse District Council
Leader, South Oxfordshire District Council
Leader, Oxford City Council
Chair, Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP

*Secretary of State for Communities and Local
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Dear Chair and Leaders

A housing and growth deal for Oxfordshire

As you know, Government wants to support those councils with ambitious and innovative plans for new homes, helping to boost supply where it is most needed. That is why the Housing White Paper and manifesto committed to agreeing bespoke housing deals with authorities in high demand areas.

Through these deals, we are seeking to support greater collaboration between councils, a more strategic approach to planning for housing and infrastructure, more innovation and high quality design in new homes, and to create the right conditions for new private investment. I am pleased to hear from my officials that good progress has been made on agreeing a housing and growth deal between Oxfordshire and Government.

Your plans to deliver 100,000 homes by 2031 – well in excess of the recently-published figures in our consultation on Local Housing Need - and your commitment to adopting a joint statutory spatial plan by 2021, is exactly the sort of ambition which Government wants to see, especially in those places where the need for additional housing is most acute, such as Oxfordshire.

The attached outline agreement identifies that through the deal, you commit to:

- The submission and adoption (subject to the inspection process) of a joint statutory spatial plan covering all five district councils in Oxfordshire, by 2021;
- Planning for and supporting the delivery of 100,000 new homes between 2011 and 2031 – backed up with a credible plan for delivery, outlining interim

milestones and targets as agreed with the Homes and Communities Agency and Government.

Through the deal, Government commits to:

- Providing Oxfordshire's six local authorities with up to £210m capital funding, comprising up to £60m funding for affordable housing and up to £150m funding for infrastructure to unlock key housing sites, providing this delivers sufficient value for money to be agreed in the forthcoming delivery plan;
- Provide £5m resource funding to boost capacity to get a joint plan in place and support housing delivery;
- Explore options for certain time-limited planning flexibilities, subject to consultation where appropriate;
- Work with Oxfordshire to address barriers to growth and productivity, and enhance its strong knowledge intensive economy and other local industries.

You have also submitted a number of bids for the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). While these bids are still being assessed and we will not be able to announce their outcome by Autumn Budget, the strong local leadership, joint working, and a commitment to achieve higher levels of housing growth that you are showing are a key part of demonstrating the strategic approach we are looking for.

I am impressed with the collaborative approach you have taken to develop the deal. It will be of benefit to local people across Oxfordshire, whilst setting a clear ambition for the potential for growth in the wider Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford arc following the National Infrastructure Commission's report published today.

I welcome your continued engagement with Government on securing a housing and growth deal for Oxfordshire. Your shared aim to build more of the homes that your local residents need is to be admired.

I now require confirmation that you are content to proceed as per the terms of the attached outline agreement. To confirm this in time for Autumn Budget, I would appreciate a response to this letter at the earliest opportunity and by close of business today. You have then committed to agreeing a detailed delivery plan with my Department and the Homes and Communities Agency by 31 January 2018.



RT HON SAJID JAVID MP

