



Councillor Leffman  
*Via email*

20 June 2022

Dear Councillor Leffman ,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 May, and also Owen Jenkins' letter of same date, concerning Oxfordshire County Council's Forward Funding schemes for Access to Didcot Garden Town and the A40 Growth Corridor. My apologies for the delayed response.

Homes England and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) both recognise the financial and economic challenges being faced at present, with inflation now a concern for the funding and delivery of many HIF funded schemes. Unfortunately, the current fiscal environment means that there is currently no HIF additional grant funding available to supplement that which has already been provided to local authorities. However, both Homes England and DLUHC are committed to continuing to work closely with local authorities, including Oxfordshire County Council, to identify alternative solutions to this issue e.g. alternative loan funding support for local developers, where town planning is in place, to address any remaining funding gaps, or rescoping schemes to ensure that they are both deliverable within the HIF funding availability period, and remain fully funded to successfully conclude infrastructure delivery to unlock homes.

Both Homes England and DLUHC recognise both the positive progress that has been made on the Oxfordshire Forward Funding schemes to date, the steps that the Council has taken to provide additional funding from its own resources, and the close working between the Council's delivery teams and our project management team here at Homes England. We trust that this can continue, to secure the delivery of infrastructure to unlock much needed homes and wider

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uses across the county, and which will materially contribute to the Government's levelling up agenda.

We are in regular contact with Bill Cotton, and the team are currently working through a rescoping exercise to see if an amended scheme as suggested above can be achieved. Should you wish to have a follow up meeting with us, Bill and team please do let us know.

Kind regards,

**Sophie White**  
Director of Infrastructure Grants

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