

APPENDIX 4



Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

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Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
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3 February 2020

Dear Yvonne,

Many thanks for agreeing to a meeting with Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) officials, during which the Secretary of State's ongoing consideration of intervention in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan using his powers under sections 21, 27 and 27A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 was discussed.

As set out in the Secretary of State's 7 January letter to South Oxfordshire District Council, one of the options he is considering is making an invitation to Oxfordshire County Council to step in, prepare and potentially approve (ie. bring into force as part of the South Oxfordshire District Council Development Plan) the South Oxfordshire Local Plan.

It was agreed that further meeting(s) would take place between MHCLG and Oxfordshire County Council officers to discuss the practicalities of making and accepting an invitation to prepare the South Oxfordshire Local Plan and the associated financial implications.

Oxfordshire County Council processes for considering whether to accept a possible invitation were also discussed. Ahead of future Oxfordshire County Council discussions on whether to potentially accept a Secretary of State invitation to step in, I hope it's useful for me to set out a few points:

MHCLG officials will continue to liaise with Oxfordshire County Council officers to discuss practicalities and processes, including examination, in advance of any plan preparation invitation being made.

We will provide further information to give you certainty about funding arrangements throughout the process. Also, if a Secretary of State invitation were made and accepted, MHCLG would be willing to offer financial assistance to cover reasonable set-up costs to enable Oxfordshire County Council to hit the ground running.

Regards,

Emran Mian
Director General, Decentralisation and Growth
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Cc: South Oxfordshire District Council