

South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034

Page 3: Part A - contact details

Q1. Are you responding as an:

Individual

Page 4: Individual contact details

Q2. Due to the plan-making process including an independent examination, a name and means of contact is required for your comments to be considered:

Title	County Councillor
Full name	Tim Bearder
Business / Organisation name (if relevant)	-
Job title (if relevant)	-
Address line 1	██████████
Address line 2	-
Address line 3	-
Postal town	████
Postcode	██████
Telephone number	██████████
Email address	████████████████████

Page 7: Part B - your comments

Q5. For comments on the Local Plan, please provide the paragraph or policy to which your comments relates. You can view a list of policies here. If you wish to comment on one of the evidence documents or the policies maps, please state the document title as well as the paragraph or policy reference.

Document / Policy / Paragraph: STRAT 1

Q6. Do you consider the Local Plan and supporting documents:

	Yes	No	Don't know	Not answered (OPTION HIDDEN FROM LIVE SURVEY)
are legally compliant?		X		
are sound?		X		
comply with the Duty to Co-operate?		X		

Q7. Please provide further information in relation to the previous question. e.g. why you do or do not consider the Local Plan to be legally compliant or sound.

For decades South Oxfordshire District Council have fastidiously protected the Green Belt but all of that has been tossed aside and six of the seven strategic sites lie in Greenbelt land.

They are doing this largely because the council's estimated housing demand is not based on objectively assessed need but political calculation.

They are doing this because the government has promised all Oxfordshire's councils a slice of a £215m bung if they build 100,000 houses.

This is a rate of building that has never previously been seen in the county and it is far in excess of the government's own predicted need for Oxfordshire.

This isn't about building the necessary houses needed for locally justifiable growth. This is a government driven experiment to turn our county into a UK silicon valley. With thousands of new houses comes a workforce to power this harebrained scheme and our elected representatives have taken the bribe, hook line and sinker.

It doesn't matter that this paltry sum is a mere drop in the ocean when set against the required cost of infrastructure to cater for this catastrophic level of construction.

The County Council have estimated an £8.2bn infrastructure shortfall needed for this number of houses.

But to do all this meaningless building IN the Green Belt just adds insult to injury. After assuming office Theresa May told Parliament: "The Government is very clear that the green belt must be protected."

If the revised National Planning Policy Framework is to be believed then: "Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances."

Presumably South Oxfordshire District Council believes 'very special circumstances' can include the fact that you'll lose a moderately large inducement if you don't build enough houses.

So the reasons are all wrong but there is a far more serious reason why we must reject this plan.

Recent reports suggest that human impacts have reached a critical stage and threaten to destabilise society and the global economy.

The average population sizes of the most threatened species in the UK having decreased by two-thirds since 1970.

It is so bad that the UK is described as one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world.

Simon Lewis, Professor of Global Change Science at University College London, told BBC News: "This century will be marked by rapid social and environmental change - that is certain. What is less clear is if societies can make wise political choices to avoid disaster in the future."

This is not a wise political choice. Unless we respect the rules that restrict growth in these areas we are simply contributing to our ever accelerating decline.

Q10. Would you like to participate at the oral part of the examination, which takes place as part of the examination process?

Yes

Q11. Would you like to comment on another policy or paragraph?

No