

Transport • Economy • Environment

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Submitted by email:
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Dear Sir/Madam

South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011-2034 Regulation 19 Consultation

Thank you for consulting Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC). BCC welcomes the opportunity to comment on the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011-2034 Regulation 19 Consultation.

Within Buckinghamshire, BCC has a statutory role for strategic planning as the County Highways Authority, County Transport Authority, County Education Authority and County Minerals and Waste Planning Authority. It also has an obligation for joint working with District Councils within Buckinghamshire on their Local Plans. The County Council also fulfils other functions which advise on planning proposals such as the Lead Local Flood Authority, the County Archaeology service which maintains the local Historic Environment Record, the County Ecology Service which has responsibility for monitoring and protecting the natural environment including the maintenance of the Bucks and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre and ecological resource of the County and the Public Rights of Way service which has responsibility for the managing and maintaining the County's Definitive Map.

BCC as a statutory Authority has an influencing role over County wide strategic planning matters with each of the Districts within the County as part of the duty to co-operate (Localism Act 2011) and a public health obligation to safeguard social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the County. BCC considers the plan to be legally compliant, complies with the Duty to Co-operate and sound.

It is in this context that I have set out the comments of the County Council in the attached appendix relating to Education and Transport.



Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011-2034 Regulation 19 Consultation. If you have any further queries, please contact the BCC Strategic Planning team via the following email address: strat_planning@buckscc.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

Ismail Mohammed
Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Manager

APPENDIX

Education

BCC can confirm that there is currently a number of Bucks resident, primary and secondary pupils that attend schools in South Oxfordshire (particularly in Thame). Similarly, a number of Oxfordshire resident primary and secondary pupils attend schools in Bucks (predominantly secondary school pupils). Proposed growth in South Oxfordshire (largely in Thame and the surrounding areas for which there are relatively minor growth proposals), as well as in Bucks is likely to increase demand for school places and have an impact on pupil movements between Bucks and Oxfordshire. BCC will continue to work with Oxfordshire County Council to monitor the pupil/population trends to ensure we meet our statutory sufficiency duty.

Transport Strategy

The County Council is keen to work with South Oxfordshire District Council throughout the development of the South Oxfordshire District Local Plan, to ensure that the plans work together, to meet the needs of our respective communities and businesses.

BCC adopted its [fourth Local Transport Plan](#) in April 2016; it sets out our high level strategy for transport and should provide you with a clear understanding of our transport objectives and policies. If there is any data used in our Plan which is of interest to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Overarching issues

We wish to reiterate our comments in response to the publication version Option consultation that took place in May 2017, in that the proposed growth in Thame indicates increased pressure on the A418 in and out of the county, specifically around the Thame roundabout. This route is strategically important for public transport, road, cycling and access to rail, across the Buckinghamshire/South Oxfordshire boundary from Thame to Haddenham. BCC requests that South Oxfordshire District Council continues to engage with BCC and Oxfordshire County Council, as Highway authorities, to ensure appropriate mitigation is put in place.

To consider in Local Plan development

Freight and the impact of HGVs using inappropriate roads in rural areas is an issue which is also likely to impact communities in the South Oxfordshire area. Both Buckinghamshire and South Oxfordshire will experience HGV vehicles seeking to find the quickest route and avoid congestion on the Strategic Road Network. This leads to HGVs using the local road networks across both counties. BCC published a [Freight Strategy](#) in 2018 and we are keen to work with our neighbouring authorities to address this issue.

We are pleased that the Plan includes a policy dedicated to supporting Strategic Transport Investment across the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway; however we would encourage the Plan to include some mention of the East West Rail project, which will bring much greater connectivity to the region.