

Planning Policy
South Oxfordshire District Council
135 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park
Abingdon
Oxfordshire
OX14 4SB

15 February 2019

Dear

I write to you as a business located in Oxfordshire which is making a significant investment into the local economy. Our business is investing in Oxfordshire as it is one of the world's most vibrant economic centres, based on outstanding academic research and teaching, as well as a rapidly-expanding network of high-technology, engineering and life science companies.

In order to attract staff to work for our business to help provide continued economic growth in Oxfordshire, there is an urgent need for more new homes to be provided in and around Oxford City.

It is well-documented that Oxford is one of the least affordable locations in the UK in which to buy a house. This is already impacting on our ability to recruit and retain staff in what are highly competitive markets for talent. For this reason, I fully support the Government's target of delivering at least 100,000 new homes in Oxfordshire by 2031.

Therefore, I greatly welcome the decision by South Oxfordshire District Council ("SODC") to support the allocation of several sites close to the Oxford City boundary in the revised SODC Local Plan which was approved by the Full Council on 20 December 2018.

In our opinion, the inclusion in the SODC Local Plan of strategic sites on the edge of the City boundary at Bayswater Brook, Grenoble Road and Northfield will provide much-needed new housing to address Oxford's unmet housing need and assist with our attempts to recruit and retain more staff in the local area. The inclusion of the Grenoble Road (Policy STRAT11) site is particularly welcome given its close proximity to the Oxford Science Park and the Oxford Business Park where so many growth businesses in Oxford are located.

Furthermore, these sites already benefit from good transport infrastructure. The excellent connectivity into Oxford City of some of the sites (Grenoble Road and Northfield) will be further enhanced in due course with the expected re-opening of the Cowley Branch Line.

For these reasons, I strongly support the inclusion of these three sites in the SODC Local Plan.

Yours sincerely

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Vice President & General Manager, UK & Eire
Intuitive Surgical Ltd.

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