

Emerging South Oxfordshire Local Plan Proposed Main Modifications Consultation

Part A - contact details

Q1. Are you responding as an:
Business / Organisation

Business / organisation contact details

Q4. Due to statutory planning regulations, a name and means of contact is required for your comments to be considered:	
Business / Organisation name	GMDN Agency
Contact name	Mark Wasmuth
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Part B - your comments

Q5. You can provide your comments on the Emerging South Oxfordshire Local Plan Proposed Main Modifications in this section. The list of documents you can comment on are: Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications as amended by Erratum Schedule of Policies Map Changes Sustainability Appraisal Addendum Habitats Regulations Assessment Addendum If you wish to provide comments on more than one proposed main modification or document, you will be given the option once you have completed this section. Please select the document you wish to comment on using the drop-down menu below:
Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications

Q6. Which Main Modification number or consultation document are you commenting on? If you are commenting on the Main Modification document, please provide the main modification number (for example MM1) in the box below. If you are unsure of the 'modification number', please click here to view the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications. If you are commenting on any of the other consultation documents (for example the Sustainability Appraisal Addendum), please provide the relevant section, paragraph or page number in the box

No

Q7. Please provide your comments in the box below. If your comments are over 500 words it would be really helpful if you could also provide a summary of your comments using the text box in the next question. You will also be able to upload any supporting documents using the button below.

The plan assumes no change in business behaviour with the effect of Covid-19.

I am aware that many businesses are either downsizing and/or changing the structure of their business to better reflect the long-term impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has caused.

For example, our business is currently located on the Milton Park estate and I have noticed that over the last 6 months many of the staff of the occupant companies have been absent. As the easing of lockdown has occurred during August and September the staff of companies have not returned and the estate has many 'effectively unoccupied' offices.

In my own company have decided to close our current office and relocate to a much smaller office. All our staff are now working from home long-term. This change was carefully considered after several months of change and consultation with staff. The impact of the change has been beneficial to the staff who now can reduce their commuting time (by over 1000 hours per year in total) and can work in a more 'family-friendly' way, improvement to the environment (48,000 miles of car transport - equivalent to 14 tonnes of CO2, per year) and the change of premises has allowed our company to save 6% of its annual expenditure. I cannot detect any adverse impact on our business, after implementing this change.

When I was looking for a smaller office, I spoke to a number of landlords and they commented on their concern on the volume of future occupancy of their properties and the demand to provide smaller working spaces when offices were needed.

I recommend the council suspend the consultation on this plan and create a new plan based on a post-Covid-19 economic impact assessment that would reevaluate the future needs for new housing, business locations and transport. I think economic impact of Covid-19 will not be realised until early 2021.

I hope this evidence is useful.

Q8. If your comments are more than 500 words long, please use the space below to provide a summary. You are not required to summarise your comments, but a summary would help us in our reporting.

No Response

Q9. Please upload any supporting documents below:

No Response

Comment again, or finish?

Would you like to comment on another main modification or supporting document?

No, I'm ready to submit my comments now and finish the survey