

15 October 2019

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP  
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Gov't  
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London SW1P 4DF  
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working locally and nationally to  
protect and enhance a beautiful,  
thriving countryside for everyone to  
value and enjoy

Cc John Howell MP

Dear Mr Jenrick,

We write in relation to your letter of 9 October to South Oxfordshire District Council.

We do not see how your intervention is justified under section 21 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act as none of the sub clauses appear to us to address the particular situation at South Oxfordshire.

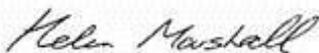
That aside, it appears not to have been brought to your notice that South Oxfordshire has a perfectly valid Plan in place - that is the 2012-27 Core Strategy - which has ten years' housing supply, and has been declared sound by the Council's officers at least to cover the time a new Plan to replace the discredited 2034 Plan is prepared.

It is also relevant that given that the new ruling parties campaigned in May against the previous administration's Plan - and that the disproportionate size of the swing locally against the Conservatives confirms public support for their position - that intervention is not only on the face of it undemocratic but directly contrary to any lingering belief that the Government might have been supporting Localism.

May we suggest that you should issue a clarifying letter that your intention is not - as it appears - to whip a recalcitrant elected Council to heel, but to engage to determine how appropriate levels of Growth Deal and HIF money could be made available to support a new Plan with less excessive housing numbers (we use the words "less excessive" as the standard method itself requires South Oxfordshire to plan for 70% more homes than the Government itself considers to be needed).

We hope that this recommendation will commend itself to you and await your earliest response.

Yours sincerely



Helen Marshall  
Director, CPRE Oxfordshire