[Date]

Dear [Oxfordshire MP/District Council Leader/District & Parish Councillor]

Re: There Must be a Public Inquiry into the Oxford-Cambridge ‘Growth Corridor’ and ‘Expressway’

I am a resident of [XXX], Oxfordshire and would like to express my concern about the proposed Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor and Expressway and express my support for CPRE Oxfordshire’s call for a Public Inquiry so that decisions of such magnitude which would be so harmful to us and our rural County are at least seen to be made openly and transparently.

The Treasury has backed the National Infrastructure Commission’s concept of an Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor of a million more houses, 300,000 of which would be in Oxfordshire, more than doubling the current housing stock and the number of people living in the County. This would be development of unprecedented proportions imposed on our currently rural County.

These developments would be facilitated by increased rail links both East-West and South-North (for London commuters) and by a new Oxford-Cambridge Expressway (a Motorway in all but name) which Highways England intends to deliver.

**Both the Growth Corridor itself and the Expressway to support it are highly contentious and would inflict harmful and transformative change on our County, but the intention is nevertheless that both should be decided behind closed doors. It is only right that there should be a statutory public consultation and Public Inquiry into each, so that at the very least justice will properly be seen to be done.**

I support CPRE’s call for these Public Inquiries preceded by a full public consultation, at which the environmental and social costs of the Growth Corridor should be weighed against the potential economic benefits envisaged, and the routing of any Expressway, at least through Oxfordshire, should be decided, in the open.

I believe a Public Inquiry is the only certain way to ensure that:

* The need for the Expressway is thoroughly examined and tested;
* The interests and incentives of the various stakeholders, especially the Central Government Departments and Local Authorities, are made transparent;
* The full costs and benefits, both financial and non-financial of the road, are fully understood;
* The pros and cons of the as yet unrevealed different route options are made clear; and
* The views of the many thousands of constituents are heard.

The Growth Corridor and Expressway would largely destroy the present rural character of the County to the disadvantage of its residents. There must be absolute openness when considering how any potential economic benefits could possibly outweigh the enormous environmental damage. As a member of the public, I rightly expect such life-changing and long-lasting decisions to be subject to the highest scrutiny and made with full transparency.

With regards

[XXX]