

To: Leaders of the Oxfordshire District, City and County Councils

Oxfordshire 2050 (JSSP) Advisory Group members

Oxfordshire MPs

Cc Oxford Times, Giles Hughes (OP2050 lead)

Dear Cllrs Mead, Brown, Leffman, Rouane, Smith, Wood, Clarke, Enright, Haine, Hollingsworth, Simpson and Mr Courts, Ms Dodds, Mr Howell, Ms Moran, Ms Prentis, and Mr Johnston

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Oxfordshire 2050 Plan – building consensus about Oxfordshire growth

The recent Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation on the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan proposes three growth projections which could be used as the basis for assessing the scale of longer-term housing growth in Oxfordshire. These projections originate from the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment (OGNA) which is a report prepared by consultants advising the Oxfordshire councils.

Unfortunately, there is widespread and deep public concern regarding the OGNA. This relates to the methodology and the overly technical nature of this very long report which results in it being inaccessible and opaque. Major civic groups representing many smaller groups throughout the county have responded to the consultation with criticisms of the OGNA.

We are asking for an independent review, which would provide: an assessment of the adequacy of the methodology; clear explanations of the effect of the choices that have been made in preparing the projections; and the effect on the resultant projections.

Further public concern centers around the *process* by which the decision on the number of houses to be built will be made. It is not clear how, when and by whom this decision will be made. We also recommend therefore that this process should be clearly explained.

Could you please support these recommendations - the proposed independent review need not delay the schedule of Plan preparation. In addition, a suitably commissioned review, ideally with input from civic groups on the terms of reference, would significantly contribute to building consensus behind the Plan and to a more meaningful Regulation 19 consultation.

The decision to undertake a review could perhaps be on the agenda of the next meeting of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (November 30th)?

Given the timing of the above meeting, we would be grateful for a reply from the Chair of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership within 5 working days. Please email: jgreen449@btinternet.com

Yours sincerely,

Ian Green

**Chairman,
Oxford Civic Society
oxcivicsoc.org.uk**

Yours sincerely

Oxford Civic Society

Need not Greed Oxfordshire coalition (representing [37 organisations](#) around the county)

Oxfordshire Friends of the Earth

CPRE Oxfordshire

Cherwell Development Watch Alliance (CDWA)

Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance

POETS

Bioabundance CIC

GARD

STARC

Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum