



REACTION ENGINES

30th September 2019

Councillor Sue Cooper
 Leader
 South Oxfordshire District Council
 135 Eastern Avenue
 Milton Park
 Abingdon
 OX14 4SB

Dear Madam

South Oxfordshire Local Plan Progress

I understand that your Cabinet and Council are looking to make a decision on whether to retain or restart the South Oxfordshire Local Plan. This is not normally a matter that my business would write to the council about, however I also understand that the consequence of this review could be the loss of the recently awarded £218m Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) which would support the delivery of much needed transport infrastructure. For us, the loss of this infrastructure would be significant. The most important elements of which for my company are the proposed new Culham river crossing and the Clifton Hampden bypass.

The proposed new bypass and river crossing will substantially improve our ability to retain and attract new staff to our business. As a business we have grown significantly over the last 3 years and now employ nearly 200 staff on the Culham site. We are also investing in a new multi-million pound test site in Westcott, Buckinghamshire to support testing of our revolutionary SABRE rocket engine. The local infrastructure is a crucial link between Westcott, Harwell & Culham. Today, approximately 50% of our employees need to travel through Clifton Hampden and already experiencing significant delays crossing the river which is why the HIF funding is so critical to the company's future development.

I appreciate why the council would wish to develop their own local plan, Indeed, I was pleased to note that MHCLG have also recognised this (Tom Walker letter dated 20 Sept 2019) and that they have offered to provide additional support to your team (assuming that you retain the existing submission and thus the HIF award), I would however ask that you find a route to doing this which does not jeopardise the desperately needed HIF funded infrastructure. Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated in order to ensure our business continues to succeed and grow in the future.

Please can I also ask that you distribute to all your members before the October Council Meeting.

Yours faithfully



Chief Operating Officer (COO)

CC: Mark Stone (SODC Chief Executive)
 [Redacted] (Democratic Services Manager) and
 [Redacted] Secretary)