



**Communities
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND**

**Susan Halliwell
Director for Planning & Place**

Adrian Duffield
Head of Planning
South Oxfordshire District Council
135 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park, Milton
OX14 4SB

1 October 2019

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Adrian

Update on Housing Infrastructure Discussions with Homes England

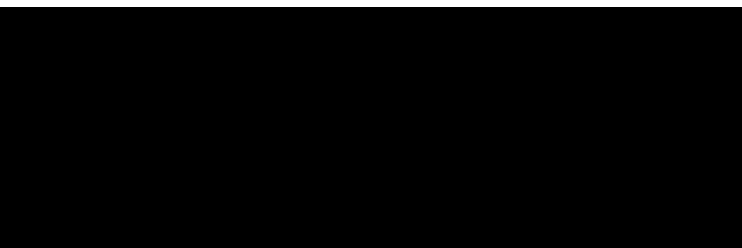
In light of the forthcoming meetings of the Council to consider matters in relation to progressing the Local Plan. I thought it important to ensure that you and your members were aware of the latest position with respect to discussions with Homes England.

The latest conference call with the officers from Homes England responsible for overseeing the Didcot Garden Town Housing Infrastructure Bid happened late yesterday (30th September 2019). Homes England continue to require as a pre-condition, that the Local Plan progresses without delay through option a) and that the work in relation to the consideration of alternative sites is ongoing and hopefully to be completed in the near future.

Further, as MHCLG has overall responsibility for the Housing Infrastructure Fund, it is they who will have to accept any alternative proposal. This is prior to Homes England agreeing on their behalf to enter in the funding contract with the County Council. It is understood that any such decision will not be possible in advance of the Council meeting on 10th October 2019.

My understanding of the position of MHCLG at this point, remains that as set out within their letter of 20th September 2019. Please do get in touch should you wish to discuss this matter.

Kind regards,



Cc Holly Jones, Planning Policy Manager, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils

