

**A. Question from Councillor Gillespie to Councillor Simpson, Cabinet member for planning**

Master planning for Land North of Bayswater Brook has started. The developers say that they are awaiting guidance from South Oxfordshire District Council to enable them to advance their traffic modelling. The Planning Inspector recommended a “Low Car” development:

What is South Oxfordshire District Council’s Planning Department’s vision for a Low Car development? How can this ensure that current unsustainable levels of traffic and associated environmental damage will be mitigated?

**Written response**

Policy STRAT13 of the Local Plan 2035 sets the Council’s vision for a low car development at the Land North of Bayswater Brook. The policy requires as a first priority high quality pedestrian, cycle and public transport connections into Oxford to maximise the number of trips made by non-car modes, together with measures to discourage car-based development.

Officers are working closely with colleagues in Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council to ensure that this vision is adhered to by the developers and that the master planning work aligns with the Council’s corporate plan targets, including to achieve a zero carbon district by 2030.

**B. Question from Councillor Arlett to Councillor Bennett, Cabinet member for economic development and regeneration**

A paper went to Cabinet on 1 October 2020 on ‘Affordable Housing S 106, commuted sums South’ - over 5 months ago. The paper stated that bids could be made for Affordable Housing Schemes from 1 April 2021 with a closing date of 30 June 2021.

Why are these dates now not being adhered to, as SODC have £3.883 million just sitting in an account ready to invest in much needed affordable housing?

**Written response**

Thanks to Councillor Arlett for reminding Council that the application process for these funds, approved at Cabinet in October 2020, will soon be open. The opening has been very slightly delayed due to Covid-related pressures on staff resources, but happily only by a few days. The necessary application forms and internal procedures associated with applications for grant are in the final stages of development, and the application process is expected to be in place no later than 12 April 2021.

Last October, Cabinet approved the use of commuted Section 106 sums received in lieu of the on-site delivery of affordable homes, together with a framework to prioritise and evaluate spend. This requires an application process which captures sufficient information and project data to ensure an informed decision can be made on the allocation these funds, and to allow for potential risk to be assessed. An 'indicative' start date for bids for grant funding was given as 1 April 2021 in the Cabinet report.