



Planning for Real **NEED** not Speculator **GREED** in Oxfordshire

PRESS RELEASE

17 December 2018

Local Industrial Strategy - local people should have a say

NNGO says local people and sound planning principles, not an unaccountable quango and developers' aspirations, should have a say on a strategy that will dictate future economic strategy for the county.

The aim of the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) is to create an economy that boosts productivity and earning power, a long term plan that provides a policy framework against which major private and public sector investment decisions are made.

Need Not Greed Oxfordshire (NNGO), a coalition of 36 groups from across the county, welcomes and supports the need to plan appropriately for a strong Oxfordshire economy but are concerned that the Oxfordshire LIS is not subject to democratic process.

Peter Jay, Chairman of ROAR (Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally), says:

“There is no process for public consultation and it appears the strategy will only receive final endorsement from the Oxfordshire Growth Board *after* it has already been approved by Government. This is despite ‘Ideas’ and ‘People’ being the first of ‘five foundations of productivity’ on which the Industrial Strategy is based.”

The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) is currently preparing the Local Industrial Strategy for the county. NNGO would like to see a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) which is democratic and questions whether OxLEP should be deciding an economic strategy for Oxfordshire, rather than locally elected and accountable representatives.

NNGO believe the starting point for strengthening local economic growth should be identifying and prioritising local employment needs, both current and future, ahead of arbitrary growth targets and recognising and respecting social and environmental needs, without which any growth strategy will be unsustainable. Existing local industry, and rural community needs and economy, including farming, food production and tourism, should be supported.

Successful sustainable development simultaneously plans for economic, environmental and social gains: It is not clear how, or if, the LIS has taken this into account. Furthermore, the LIS should integrate into, but not dictate, the Oxfordshire Joint Statutory Spatial Plan.

NNGO would like to encourage the public to write to their local MP asking that Oxfordshire's Local Industrial Strategy is subject to full public consultation.

Local organisations and individuals who would like to know more can visit the Need not Greed Oxon website: www.neednotgreedoxon.org.uk or can email info@neednotgreedoxon.org.uk.

ENDS

For more information please contact Julia Benning, 07392 769377 or 01491 612079, email: info@neednotgreedoxon.org.uk

Editors Notes

NNGO is a campaign dedicated to protecting Oxfordshire's rural environment, whilst recognising the development and infrastructure needs of the counties' residents.

We believe there is an alternative vision for the future of Oxfordshire, one that is not based on forced economic growth but which focuses on meeting local people's real needs. www.neednotgreedoxon.org.uk

For a complete list of NNGO members visit the website.

Visit the OxLEP website to read the Local Industrial Strategy:
<https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/lis>



Planning for Real **NEED** not Speculator **GREED** in Oxfordshire

Coalition Secretariat, c/o CPRE Oxfordshire, First Floor, 20 High Street, Watlington, Oxon OX49 5PY.

Website: www.neednotgreedoxon.org.uk