



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

December 2019

Dear Candidate,

Will you help restore public confidence in the planning system?

Need Not Greed Oxfordshire (NNGO) is a coalition of over 40 community groups and organisations which have come together to fight for sustainable, democratically accountable planning in Oxfordshire.

Will you pledge support for NNGO's campaign priorities and communicate the concerns of thousands of residents in Oxfordshire?

1. Changes to the national planning system to restore a proper balance between local democracy and planning principles on the one hand and growth on the other.

NNGO wants to see a planning system in place that:

- Limits the speculative development caused by the 5 Year Housing Supply rules and returns to a plan-led system;
- enables local authorities to force the build out of existing allocated land before further land is released for development;
- increases the amount of genuinely affordable housing, available in perpetuity;
- directs development to areas of greatest need rather than greatest demand;
- increases protection for designated areas such as Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and
- reflects the challenges of our climate emergency and encourages higher quality development, including higher density.

2. Improvements to strategic planning in the county which assess the cumulative impacts of growth and which is open and transparent, and not driven by top-down demands.

As part of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, our six local planning authorities have all agreed to work together to produce an Oxfordshire 2050 Plan. This provides an opportunity to improve strategic planning across the county. However, this will only be valid if there is full public engagement right from the start, including an open opportunity to question the current growth targets for Oxfordshire, without interference from central Government.

NINGO wants to see a Spatial Plan that:

- Improves strategic planning across the county, by assessing the cumulative impact of forced economic growth on the local environment and in relation to the climate emergency. Current growth plans for Oxfordshire require 100,000 new houses by 2031, above the government's own Objectively Assessed Need guidelines and more than 200,000 additional people - a 30% increase in our population, way beyond national average growth projections;
- provides proper democratic engagement and an open and transparent opportunity to question the growth targets for the county;
- rejects the imposition of an environmentally damaging Oxford-Cambridge Expressway, and prioritises investment in public transport, including an electrified East-West rail with the capacity to take freight;
- rejects the growth levels being brought forward under the Oxford-Cambridge 'Growth Arc' concept and returns to locally driven planning to meet local needs.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of Need not Greed Oxon coalition



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