

Cabinet 21 June 2021

Address by Dr Natasha Robinson on behalf of CPRE Oxfordshire

“Councillors will be aware that CPRE Oxfordshire is supportive of the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan in principle, recognising the importance of a spatial plan for the county that respects environmental constraints whilst accommodating need.

However, we are concerned that this consultation document is not fit for purpose.

1. It doesn't make the tough decisions needed.
2. It will let the Arc dominate and
3. It will undermine the role of our local councillors.

The public deserves a revised consultation document, or at the very least an additional paper, that sets out the preferred growth and spatial options and provides adequate information to allow the impacts, risks and benefits to be compared.

Given that there has already been a Vision consultation and the next stage is a final draft Plan (Reg 19), then this should be a **Preferred Options consultation**. This approach is followed for the policy options proposed, but **not** for the fundamental issues of levels or location of growth – the core of what the Plan is supposed to address.

Environmental constraints must be a key consideration.

We ask that you consider these concerns. Thank you."

Response from Cllr Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning & Housing Delivery

Thank you for your address today. I am very sorry that you were unable to attend today's Cabinet meeting, and I hope that your ankle recovers soon.

The purpose of the paper before the Cabinet today is to approve the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan Regulation 18(2) document for consultation. The purpose of this consultation is to gather comments, support and criticism of the document and its supporting evidence, and to respond accordingly at the next stage of consultation. Irrespective of the views of the CPRE on the proposals in the consultation document, it is my view – and more importantly, the view of the legal advisors to the 2050 Plan team – that it is fit for the purpose of carrying out the consultation required by Regulation 18.

This Council will be responding to the consultation, and I have no doubt that we will highlight both areas of agreement and areas where we think that the proposed policy approaches need to be amended and improved, and our priorities in terms of the choices presented. I am sure that the CPRE will be doing the same, and that will be the appropriate place to make the criticisms raised in the question. It will then be for all the five planning authorities to work together to arrive at a full draft of the 2050 Plan for Regulation 19 consultation that addresses all the comments received. That document will also be published for public consultation before submission for examination.

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