

Title	District Councillors' Report
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Local Plan Examination in Public

The virtual EiP for the District's controversial Local Plan 2034 (now really 2035) is underway, and has attracted a great deal of public interest and participation. The inspector has received representations from a number of SODC councillors, including leader Sue Cooper, on a range of matters, including overall housing numbers, affordable housing, density of development, climate change compatibility, green belt matters and site-specific concerns.

Public Participation in Planning Committee Meetings

At its meeting on 16th July, Full Council passed a motion to adopt new virtual planning committee meeting procedures, which allow for online participation by members of the public and Town & Parish Councils. Representations from Parishes can now be made in real-time, rather than in writing.

COVID19 Councillor Grants

Following an application from Thame Town Council, grant payments have been made by the district councillors to TTC.

Consultation on South Oxfordshire Corporate Plan, 2020-2024

Every four years the Council develops a new strategic plan that provides the framework for all of its programmes and operations. As a new administration, this gives us the opportunity to convert our manifesto pledges and our political priorities into programmes of action, as well as to recognise the many partnerships and collaborations which are necessary to deliver services (current and future) to our residents. For example, we cannot deliver sustainable transport infrastructure on our own, nor can we help our local high streets and businesses to recover from the shock of COVID-19 without working collaboratively with agencies like OxLEP (Local Economic Partnership) and within the OxCam Arc grouping.

There are six Themes in the Plan:

Theme 1: Homes and infrastructure that meet local needs

Theme 2: Improved economic and community well-being

Theme 3: Action on the Climate Emergency

Theme 4: Protect and restore our natural world

Theme 5: Investment and innovation

Theme 6: Openness and accountability

Public consultation on the new draft Corporate Plan has now been launched and will run until midnight on the 13th of August, so please do take the opportunity to give your feedback on the overall strategic themes and the illustrative projects listed. The online survey features a number of short videos of Cabinet members introducing the six themes:

<https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/Southcorporateplanfeedback/>

New Thames Champion for South Oxfordshire

Cllr Jo Robb is taking on the newly created role of Thames Champion. 40 miles of the Thames flows through our District. The River Thames is one of our most precious natural assets and Cllr Robb will be networking with river users, councillors and neighbouring councils to improve access to the river, and to protect and enhance its biodiversity and cleanliness.