

Freddie van Mierlo, M.P.
Member of Parliament for Henley and Thame
House of Commons
London
SW1 0AA

**Councillor David Rouane
Leader of the Council**

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Dear Mr van Mierlo,

I am writing on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council in relation to potential community energy benefit options from large renewable projects. We believe that new renewable energy infrastructure can contribute positively to the wellbeing and prosperity of the communities hosting them and that action should be taken to channel this potential.

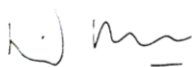
In 2019, South Oxfordshire declared a climate emergency. The council are committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions in our own operations by 2030 and in the district by 2045. To help achieve this, we, however, need to encourage the transition to renewable forms of energy.

As a district, South Oxfordshire has significant potential for clean energy deployment – particularly solar – but it needs to be delivered and harnessed in a way which benefits our residents. Currently, though, there is no requirement for proposed renewable projects to help further this ambition. This unfortunately, means that communities may be excluded from the economic and social positives accruing from the clean energy transition, therefore, making it harder than it would otherwise be to gain the support of the local community for such developments.

The council is, therefore, calling upon HM Government to take action to ensure that the option for local shared ownership or benefit schemes is offered by large-scale renewable developments to communities.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



Cllr David Rouane
Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council