

Cllr Liz Leffman
Council Leader
Oxfordshire county Council

Councillor Bethia Thomas
Leader of the Council

Bethia.Thomas@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Via email:
Liz.leffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01235 422422
Abbey House
Abbey Close
Abingdon
OX14 3JE

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Dear Liz,

I am writing in connection with the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme (OFAS), a project which has national prominence, being featured in the government's recently published "UK Infrastructure: A 10 Year Strategy" document.

As you know OFAS is run by the Environment Agency and both of our councils are partners in the project which will bring significant benefits to the area, reducing flood risk to over one thousand properties, protecting lives and livelihoods.

I'm sure you are also aware that there is an interdependence between OFAS and the OCC project to replace the A423 (Oxford Southern Bypass) bridge over the main line railway. A decision was taken some years ago to run the two projects side by side with the flood alleviation channel making use of culverts to be provided under the new bridge.

The reason for my letter is to seek your assurances regarding the timetable and funding for the new bridge. I was disconcerted to hear at a recent meeting of the OFAS Sponsoring Group (minutes enclosed) that the bridge project is now considered a significant risk to OFAS.

Now that OFAS is moving towards its construction stage, can you please confirm your council's commitment that the A423 bridge will go ahead and will cause no delay to OFAS?

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Bethia Thomas
Leader of the Council