

Neale Coleman
Chair
Oxford Growth Commission

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Dear Neale,

I am writing in response to the Oxford Growth Commission's recently published interim report.

The Vale Cabinet met informally last week to consider the interim report and I thought it would be helpful to set out some of that informal feedback.

Cabinet members welcomed the report and acknowledged the work that the Commission is doing, in partnership with our officers, to unblock allocated sites. We are particularly pleased to see the focus you have given to the Dalton Barracks site and the work you are doing with the MOD to bring that site forward for delivery.

We value the recognition of the need for a station for Grove and Wantage in your report and in the recent OxRail 2040 Strategy. The council has been calling for a station to support Grove and Wantage for many years. With the significant number of new homes already being built in the area, along with new businesses and employment opportunities, we urgently need to see government backing for delivery of this project.

Our key employment sites of Harwell and Milton Park are flagship assets to Oxfordshire and the UK more broadly. Ensuring we have the right infrastructure to support their needs, and continued growth is of high importance to us all.

Provision of leisure and health facilities are of strong importance for new communities. You are aware of the issues we have had trying to unblock the delivery of the Great Western Park health facility and we would welcome any support that the Commission could lend us, working with the ICB to deliver this much needed facility for the new residents of Didcot and surrounding villages.

www.southoxon.gov.uk
www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk



Thank you for your report and support addressing the challenges across Oxfordshire, we look forward to continuing to work with you.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Bethia Thomas
Leader of the Council