

Cllr. James G Jamieson
Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands
Shefford
SG17 5TQ

1 November 2017

Sent by email

Dear Mr Jamieson

Oxford - Cambridge Corridor - The response by 6 LEP's to the National Infrastructure Commission's (NIC) "Call for Evidence" on development along the Oxford - Cambridge Corridor.

In September 2016, in your capacity as Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council you signed a document which was submitted to the NIC consultation on development throughout the so-called Oxford - Cambridge Corridor. Among other things, this document called for an additional 1 million new homes (37% increase) and an increase in the population of the "corridor" by 1.6 million people (25% increase).

A copy of this submission document is attached and the details can be found on page 10.

In our submission to Central Bedfordshire Council's Draft Local Plan 2035 Consultation we commented as follows (in red italics) - see pages 3 & 4 of our submission:

*"We are aware that the Leader of CBC James Jamieson, has signed a document submitted to the NIC as part of the "Oxford - Cambridge" consultation process. This document calls for the development of 1 million new homes (+37% increase) and an increase in population of 1.6 million (+35% increase) across the "Corridor" over the next 35 years.
(For more details see the home page of CPRE Bedfordshire's website).*

Despite its importance, to our knowledge, this submission document has never been debated or voted on at a Full Council Meeting and neither has it ever been shared with the residents of Central Bedfordshire.

CPRE Bedfordshire calls on Central Bedfordshire Council to rectify this situation at the earliest opportunity by acting as follows:

- i) The document submitted to the NIC consultation should be made available on the CBC website with immediate effect so that all residents can read what CBC has agreed on their behalf.*
 - ii) CBC should present the submission document to a meeting of the Full Council for debate.*
 - iii) a). As part of the Local Plan process CBC should advise precisely what commitments they have already given with regard to their share of the 1million new homes committed to by the Leader of CBC.*
b). Furthermore, what actions have CBC already agreed to take to ensure their share of the increase of 1.6 million in the population across the “Corridor”?”
- c). How has this been reflected in the policies and housing numbers in the emerging draft Local Plan 2035?

The purpose of this letter is to formally request that, as Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council, you now act by undertaking the steps i, ii, iii a, iii b,& iii c that we have indicated above as being necessary to ensure that the local democratic process is fulfilled by your Council.

In addition, we are asking that Central Bedfordshire Council should confirm what formal approvals were obtained and processes followed to enable the Leader to sign the document on behalf of CBC. The minutes of meetings documenting these should be provided.

It is in our view essential, that the residents of Central Bedfordshire are made aware of the commitments that you and your council have made on their behalf. It is their democratic right.

I look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours sincerely

Gerry Sansom
Chair