

## WHO ARE WE?

Need not Greed Oxon is a campaign dedicated to protecting Oxfordshire's rural environment, whilst recognising the development and infrastructure needs of our residents.

We are a coalition of local community groups from across Oxfordshire.

## THE ISSUE

A "growth at all costs" policy has led to a county plan that envisages building at virtually double any previous rate, and threatens to overwhelm our infrastructure, services, landscape and communities.

Put simply, the growth strategy is the biggest threat to rural Oxfordshire in our history and its impact would be irreversible.

The growth strategy for Oxfordshire proposes 100,000 new houses by 2031, equivalent to two new cities the size of Oxford; plus 85,000 new jobs, and at least 200,000 more people, roughly a 30% increase in our population.

A CAMPAIGN CHALLENGING  
OXFORDSHIRE'S FORCED  
ECONOMIC GROWTH  
STRATEGY

## THE CAMPAIGN

Need not Greed Oxon is a coalition of over 20 local groups and individuals that have come together to campaign for a future that respects the views of local people, plans for "need not greed" and protects the environment.

We want local people to have a real voice in the debate on the future of Oxfordshire.

## SUPPORT US

We'd love to hear from more groups interested in joining the coalition.

Email: [info@neednotgreedoxon.org.uk](mailto:info@neednotgreedoxon.org.uk)

Find out more about the campaign by signing up to our regular e-newsletter and support our work by making a donation (see our website for more details).

[neednotgreedoxon.org.uk](http://neednotgreedoxon.org.uk)

**DO YOU CARE  
ABOUT THE  
FUTURE OF  
OXFORDSHIRE?**

**YOU HAVE UNTIL  
20 MAY TO HAVE  
YOUR SAY ON  
THE COUNTY'S  
FORCED  
ECONOMIC  
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PLAN.**

**NEED  
not  
GREED  
OXON**

Planning for Real Need  
not Speculator Greed  
in Oxfordshire





## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

The public have not been properly consulted on the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) – the economic strategy for Oxfordshire. When the original SEP was drafted in 2014, OxLEP promised a public consultation on its growth plans, but cancelled this due to ‘lack of time’.

Now the Oxfordshire LEP – the Local Enterprise Partnership – the unelected quango that is driving the economic growth in the county, is ‘refreshing’ the SEP and holding a public consultation. The consultation runs from 21 April to 20 May on the OxLEP website: [oxfordshirelep.org.uk/content/sep-refresh-consultation](http://oxfordshirelep.org.uk/content/sep-refresh-consultation).

But while the public are finally being given the opportunity to comment on some aspects of the Strategic Economic Plan, OxLEP has made it clear that the overall growth targets are not up for debate.

**This isn't good enough! We believe local people should be given a proper opportunity to have their say on the future of our county.**

This may be your last opportunity to stop the juggernaut of forced economic growth in Oxfordshire; your final chance to protect our rural county from irreversible damage.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Below are our suggested responses to the questions posed in the OxLEP public consultation (you should include your own comments):**

### 1 SEP

This plan leads to the imposition of a dreamt up 85,000 jobs by 2031 in a county that already has virtually full employment. The environmental and social impacts of this all-out growth strategy have not been considered.

### 2 People

The plan doesn't address the real need: providing the right kind of houses, in the right place, for the right people (those in real need), and at the right price.

### 3 Place

Oxfordshire needs to remain an attractive place to live and work; this plan threatens the rural character of Oxfordshire. We want to see focused development, prioritising brownfield sites, respecting the views of local communities and recognising the value of our environment.

### 4 Enterprise

The plan should provide support for a range of sectors, including rural businesses, tied to local employment needs.

### 5 Connectivity

How can the SEP be properly assessed without knowing what infrastructure is required to support it and whether this is deliverable? We want to see a commitment to ongoing infrastructure improvement, delivered prior to further growth.

### 6 OxLEP

OxLEP (a limited company) is unelected and undemocratic, and exists solely to promote growth. We want to know why it is in charge of making decisions about the future of our county?

There was no public consultation on the first SEP; this review should therefore be a full scale re-examination of the overall growth figures for Oxfordshire, not just a token consultation on the bits around the edges.

### 7 Additional comments

The SEP Refresh should be an opportunity to introduce lower growth targets for the county that are more realistic and appropriate.

We want environmental and social considerations to lie at the heart of such decision-making, not be ignored or bolted on afterwards.

The growth targets are being used to justify development on the Oxford Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – how can this be considered ‘sustainable’?

We believe the SEP should be subject to a full Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Notional job targets are leading to actual housing figures. There are no brakes, caveats or checkpoints. This means that valuable land is being released now, without really knowing whether or not it will be needed. The SEP needs to assess how likely it is to meet these growth targets.

Growth should be phased, to ensure delivery of housing and jobs is in tandem. Measures need to be put in place to mitigate the risk of half-finished housing estates and projects that don't join up and are not supported by the necessary infrastructure.

We want sustainable development focused on meeting the needs of existing residents, with growth more in line with a 10% increase in population by 2031 (based on national population projections). This means the right houses, in the right place, at the right price and supported by the right infrastructure.

**See our website for a more detailed response.**

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Speculator Greed in Oxfordshire



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