

Who is in charge of industrialising Oxfordshire?

There is a **Growth Board**. This comprises the leaders of the 4 district councils and the city council as voting members, plus some shady non-voting members such as the University which is very keen on development as it is a major landowner.

There is the **Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP)**. They are a chosen bunch of business people who liaise with government about the future of Oxfordshire. I am on the (very sidelined) Environment and Sustainability Subgroup of OxLEP. OxLEP makes up industrial growth paths, makes up absurd numbers for jobs growth, and gets loads of grants from government that it hands on to the councils, telling them what to spend it on.

There is the **Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)** of 2014 which took the new job numbers, the expensiveness of Oxfordshire houses, the natural growth in county numbers from births and immigration, plus imaginary growth, to come up with a 'need' for 100,000 homes between 2011 and 2031.

There is the **Growth Deal**, made between the Growth Board and the Government in the summer. In exchange for building 100,000 homes, "well in excess" of what is needed according to the then housing minister Dominic Raab's, they will give us £150m for 'infrastructure' (roads). This was apportioned a couple of weeks ago, but I don't know when it gets delivered.

There is the **Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy** that found the infrastructure costs for 100,000 homes would be £9 billion. The Growth Deal fund is therefore a drop in the ocean.

There is the new method under planning law, the "**objectively assessed need**" or **OAN** which should now be being used to calculate needed homes. Oxford City has updated its SHMA and found it needs half the homes it thought. SODC has not done this, but planning law shows worked examples for each district and shows we need 10,000 homes not 28,000.

Housing is being thrust upon us by Whitehall.