POETS
Planning Oxfordshire's Environment and Transport Sustainably

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Oxford Local Plan should open up more employment land for housing

Local Group **POETS** (Planning Oxfordshire's Environment and Transport Sustainably) say that greater flexibility is needed in Oxford's current draft Local to allow more homes to be built.

Fewer sites should be ringfenced purely for employment, and areas for housing could be identified on some employment sites.

POETS' Katie Barrett said: "There are many more jobs in the city than residents of working age. This has led to high levels of commuting, traffic congestion and an acute shortage of affordable homes.

"It makes sense now to prioritise scarce land for housing, rather than continuing to promote high job numbers."

POETS also argue that this approach must go hand in hand with robust transport policies that prioritise the use of public transport and sustainable modes *over* the use of private vehicles, making sustainable travel the natural first choice.

Katie Barrett said: "We need the Local Plan to include a strong policy on transport assessments and a commitment to working with others to reduce congestion."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. The latest Draft Oxford Local Plan 2042 (Reg 18) is available here (consultation closed 8 Aug). The next round of consultation (Reg 19) is due to take place in November 2025.

2. POETS are a voluntary think tank of professionals providing analysis, commentary and ideas on sustainable planning and transport for Oxfordshire

   Further info, incl. POETS Vision for Oxfordshire, available here: www.poetsplanningoxon.uk

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