POETS
Planning Oxfordshire's Environment and Transport Sustainably

MEDIA RELEASE **2 March 2026**

Oxford Plan will increase traffic and housing problems say experts

Oxford City Council's planning policies will add to traffic congestion and worsen housing shortages according to a think tank of planning experts.

POETS (Planning Oxfordshire's Environment and Transport Sustainably) made their comments in their response to a consultation on the Oxford Local Plan 2045. The consultation ends on 13 March.

"There are already many more jobs in Oxford than there are local residents to fill them", said Katie Barrett of POETS. "That means large numbers of people having to commute into the city, with the traffic problems that creates. It also places huge pressure on the housing stock, contributing to high rents and prices."

The Local Plan is proposing a very significant increase in the amount of land devoted to employment, with only a limited amount of new housing.

"The balance needs to be the other way round," says Katie Barrett. "As much land as possible should be devoted to housing rather than yet further increasing the imbalance between jobs and housing."

ENDS

Notes for editors:

1. 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: www.poetsplanningoxon.uk

2. The public consultation on the Oxford Local Plan 2045 Submission Draft (Regulation 19) runs until 13 March. See: https://consultation.oxford.gov.uk/planning-services/oxford-local-plan-2045-reg19-consultation/

   POETS' response to the consultation is available here: https://www.poetsplanningoxon.uk/responsesletters.html

Contact

Helen Marshall, POETS, M: 07791 376365

E: hmarshall4@yahoo.co.uk OR E: contact.poets@gmail.com