

**BIOABUNDANCE COMMENTS ON THE DUTY TO COOPERATE  
VALE AND SOUTH JOINT PLAN 2041 June 2022 consultation**

This paper on the duty to cooperate should be postponed. Mr Gove intimates that the duty to cooperate may change or diminish, or be scrapped.

In addition to the strategic matters covered in this paper, we would suggest four more:

1. Land Use as a fundamental limit to growth – food production, rewilding, mental health
2. Local democracy – clear messages from electorate that they want organic population growth only – not growth led by jobs and investment
3. Greater consideration to wealth distribution rather than wealth creation
4. Removal of obligations against Oxfordshire's Growth Deal - would the £215m need to be paid back?

In addition we ask, should SODC be cooperating with Oxford City in the future, if their unmet need is mostly economic growth rather than real need? Oxford's current local plan is to build 1400 homes per annum of which only 554 are actual organic growth according to the Office for National Statistics.

How does the Duty to Cooperate ensure that surrounding district's dutifully fulfilling this obligation are not 'cheated' by the possibility of Oxford City itself failing to build out its own allocation?

Please would you consider adding the following non-prescribed bodies to the list of those with whom you will be consulting:

- CPRE
- Friends of the Earth
- Bioabundance