

## Response ID ANON-8CC9-KDP2-8

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-01-29 18:41:28**

### Your details

**What is your name?**

**Forename:**

Aaron

**Surname:**

Wilkes

**Are you making an individual response or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**If individual, please tell us what type:**

Resident of Somerset West and Taunton

**Name of organisation:**

**Please choose one from the drop-down list:**

**What is your (personal/organisational) address?**

██████████  
████████████████████  
  
██████████  
██████████

**What is your email address?**

██████████  
████████████████████

### 1. Overview and objectives

**Do you agree that these are the right Objectives for the Local Plan?**

Agree

**Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):**

I think we have the housing covered, and by the time they have finished the road works I think the whole of Taunton will have been done.

What we do need to focus on is employment,, specifically Taunton is falling behind with tech and innovation companies. I used to have to work near Bristol and have since managed to get a little closer to Taunton by going to Weston, but nothing like it in Taunton unfortunately.

### 2. Carbon neutrality

**Question 1a: Should we aim to require that all newdevelopment is 'zero carbon' by as soon as possible (e.g. by 2025) or give slightly more time (e.g. by 2030) for developers to adapt their design approaches, materials and suppliers?**

Slightly more time (e.g. by 2030)

**Question 1b: Should we allocate sites for specific renewable energy development or identify broad areas which we consider suitable?**

A combination of both of the above

**Question 1c: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?**

**Please provide comments (250 words max):**

Very much depends on the energy source, nobody wants to live near a wind farm or solar farm, and it has to be installed in the right location for maximum efficiency, so there needs to be careful planning and provision for any renewable energy source developments. Hopefully in years to come it'll become far more efficient than it is at the moment.

### 3. Sustainable locations

**Question 2a: Do you agree with the tiers that identifies Taunton followed by 6 tiers covering the other settlements?**

Yes

**If not, what changes would you make and why? (200 words max):**

I say yes, but we have to be careful we don't take away all of the green land, part of the appeal to somewhere like Taunton is just outside the busy town is lovely countryside, this is getting more and more sparse as housing estates go up.

Newer housing estates also seem to have less parking so that cars have to park anywhere they can and most of the time you can barely turn around, this needs more thought, these days there is no character to houses, just flat packed so it seems.

**Question 2b: Do you think Watchet and Williton should be seen as associated settlements for the purposes of the Local Plan due to their close proximity and in complementing the services of each other (and therefore be in a higher tier to Bishops Lydeard and Wiveliscombe)?**

Yes - Watchet and Williton should be seen as associated settlements

**Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):**

They are close enough to be part of the area covered I believe.

But again, we need to be careful that we don't take away the quaintness of the small towns and villages, they are holiday destinations and pass throughs for many folk and it would be nice to keep it that way.

**Question 2c: Do you think we should carry on with the way housing is currently distributed across our area (see pie chart) or should we be doing something different, such as one of the three options suggested below?**

Increase housing in Taunton and Wellington; and reduce in Minehead and Rural Centres

**Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):**

Wellington and surrounding areas (not including Taunton) have more industry there are a few tech firms sprinkled around Wellington and beyond.

**What else do you think about housing distribution in our area?**

**Please provide comments (250 words max):**

Housing is fine if there is people and jobs to fill it, and why not build a housing estate with decent parking, modern houses are far too small, box rooms and no character, and making people detour because of a stupid bus gate like over Monkton Heathfield is just ludicrous, I can see the other side of it, but I have to take a painful detour all around the houses to get to the other side of it...whoever came up with that idea needs to be sacked!

**Question 2d: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?**

**Please provide comments (250 words max):**

No, I have said all I need to previously

#### **4. New and affordable homes**

**Question 3a: Should our housing requirement figure match the Government's minimum figure of 702 dwellings per year or should we have a higher figure?**

The housing requirement should be higher than 702 dwellings per year and determined by economic growth strategies, infrastructure improvements and unmet need from neighbouring planning authorities

**Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):**

Surely it has to be based on economic growth, no point in building 1000's of houses if you only have 100's of people.

**Question 3b: How should we proactively plan for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople pitches?**

Allocate sites specifically for pitches.

**Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):**

If said travellers want to smash the site up then they can come back to a smashed site, no reason why they should be in the rest of the public viewing if they are going to break stuff and have taxpayers pay for it, the police need to grow a pair and get rid of them where they are abusive and intrusive i.e. P+R, Blackbrook business park.

**Question 3c: Should we require that all new housing developments include a percentage of new homes that are designed to be accessible, adaptable and wheelchair accessible?**

Require a proportion of dwellings to meet the category standard as set out in Building Regulations Part M.

**Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):**

I think that at the very least there should be an easy way to adapt a modern house into wheelchair accessible accommodation and not have to have steps and the like ripped up and causing a lot of money, no real excuse why there can't be ramped pavement access level

**Question 3d: How should we provide for custom self-build plots? Should we:**

Identify and allocate specific sites for self-build plots in locations related to where people want to live according to our self-build register; and/or

**Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):**

If you allow self build plots mix with standard housing then you have to ensure that all self build plot plans match the aesthetics and plans of the rest of the site.

**Question 3e: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?**

**Please provide comments (250 words max):**

None other than already mentioned

## 5. A prosperous economy

**Question 4a: Should we ensure the growth of our local economy through an increase in the proportion of higher value jobs (with limited increase of jobs overall) or through a significant increase in the number of jobs?**

Align with the Heart of the South West growth ambitions (deliver a shift towards a significant increase in overall job numbers including higher value jobs)

**Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):**

Why should the likes of Bristol have all of the high paid tech companies and jobs, I don't want students of engineering these days to waste money having to commute to the likes of Bristol or move out of the area just because they feel they need to due to employment constraints.

**Question 4b: Should we keep all of our existing employment sites and allocations in employment use or should we allow the loss of some to other uses? How should we decide which ones to lose?**

Retain all existing and currently allocated employment sites; or

**Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):**

We need more, not to lose any, we need to encourage existing ones to stay if possible, this can be done by lower rent and better business rates, which are an absolute joke, £10k PA rent and £20k PA business rates on some properties, absolutely ridiculous, no wonder companies can't survive.

**Question 4c: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?**

**Please provide comments (250 words max):**

No

## 6. Infrastructure

**Question 5a: On what infrastructure should we prioritise developer contributions? (Please rank in order of priority)**

**IO - 5a - ranking - Affordable housing:**

1

**IO - 5a - ranking - Designing for the Climate Change Emergency:**

3

**IO - 5a - ranking - Accessible, Adaptable and Wheelchair Accessible homes:**

4

**IO - 5a - ranking - Strategic Infrastructure (schools, transport, community facilities):**

2

**Question 5b: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?**

**Please provide comments (250 words max):**

No.

## 7. Connecting people

**Question 6a: How can we encourage people not to use their car when travelling into our towns for shopping and work? How can we provide more opportunities for using public transport in rural areas?**

**Please provide comments (200 words max):**

Unless you can reduce the cost for local workers on busses and / or trains then there isn't really much else you can do, how is someone going to get to home from a bus stop potentially 5 - 10 minute walk away with bags of shopping, or heavy items, it has to be within reason. Some people are lazy and will drive to a local shop, others, like myself, prefer to walk for 5 minutes to go to the shops (I'm lucky enough to live near a few shops)

**Question 6b: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?**

**Please provide comments (250 words max):**

No

## 8. The natural and historic environment

**Question 7a: Are there any specific measures that you would like to see new developments deliver to improve biodiversity locally?**

**Please provide comments (200 words max):**

I wouldn't even know where to begin with flooding etc.

**Question 7b: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?**

**Please provide comments (250 words max):**

No

## 9. Thriving coastal and rural communities

**Question 8a: How should we manage development in rural areas? Should we:**

Not have settlement boundaries but instead have a criteria based policy to determine development proposals against; or

**Question 8b: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?**

**Please provide comments (250 words max):**

I think anyone should be allowed to propose development and it might be a good plan for the area, but it will need careful planning to make sure it fits with the surrounding area.

## 10. Wellbeing of our residents

**Question 9a: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?**

**Please provide comments (250 words max):**

It is all very well putting in cycle paths and walking areas etc, but a few i've been down recently are not very well kept and it's safer to walk in the road or on the grass.

## 11. Policies for our places: Taunton

**Question 10a: How do you think we could introduce more housing into Taunton Town centre?**

Requiring a housing mix skewed towards dwellings with fewer bedrooms; or

**Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):**

If you want to reduce cars in and around town, don't build a 3 or 4 bedroom house in town, you have to be realistic, someone who works in town, or a couple, who have a car to drive to get shopping or take children need cars, single, or child free couples could more than likely get away with not needing a car, shopping can get delivered, perhaps offer an incentive of free delivery or reduced cost delivery for local to town houses.

**Question 10b: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?**

**Please provide comments (250 words max):**

No

## 12. Policies for our places: Wellington

**Question 11a: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?**

**Please provide comments (250 words max):**

No

## 13. Policies for our places: the Coastal Strip

**Question 12a: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?**

**Please provide comments (250 words max):**

No