

## Response ID ANON-8CC9-KDXG-5

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-03-15 21:46:22**

### Your details

**What is your name?**

**Forename:**

Angela

**Surname:**

Baker

**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):**

In order to meet these objectives it is essential that development is focused on brownfield sites and NOT greenfield sites.

### 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?**

As soon as possible (e.g. by 2025)

**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):**

Careful thought should be given to the identification of suitable sites for specific renewable energy development to minimise the impact on the areas of outstanding natural beauty which enfolds our area and the wildlife therein.

### 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):

**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)?**

Not Answered

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

**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?**

Leave housing distribution the same

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

Housing provision should remain the same but improved public transport access between Taunton and Minehead and other coastal areas needs to be put in place.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Existing village settlement boundaries should be retained.

Development should be focused where good transport infrastructure already exists i.e. Taunton town centre.

Brownfield sites should be used and not greenfield sites.

The reference to the M5 corridor should be removed because Taunton should not become a town dissected by a Motorway. The M5 should remain the eastern and southern border of the town and the land in the Blackdown Vale should be maintained as an Area of High Landscape Value.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Concentrated development on brownfield sites is required in order to make the Climate Agenda work

#### **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 the Government's minimum figure of 702 dwellings per year

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

**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):

**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?**

Not Answered

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

**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):

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

#### **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?**

Develop bespoke and realistic growth ambitions linked to the Council's Economic Development (Prosperity) Strategy (i.e. increase the proportion of higher value jobs within existing overall job numbers and not pursue a significant increase in job numbers overall); or

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

**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):**

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

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

## **6. Infrastructure**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Affordable housing should be delivered directly by the council and should not be delegated to developers.

## **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):**

Provide more bridleways/cycleways from villages into Taunton.  
High speed broadband, preferably fibre to home.  
Concentrated urban development.  
Building a station at Wellington.  
Bring the West Somerset line as a regular service into Taunton.  
Increase local delivery.

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

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

## **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):**

SWT is defined by its beautiful landscapes. These need to be fiercely protected. In order to increase biodiversity you must firstly protect what is already there. Enhancement can then take place by the restoration of hedgerows which have been damaged or destroyed already. Chemical reduction in agriculture and better management of waterways would help too. Tree and hedgerow planting on new developments would be required.

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

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

The Blackdown Vale, consisting of the parishes of Stoke St. Mary, Neroche, Corfe and Pitminster, is the largest valley in the area and it is under the most pressure from development. It should remain protected as an Area of High Landscape Value.

Green Wedges should also be preserved.

## **9. Thriving coastal and rural communities**

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

Have settlement boundaries across the District; or

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

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

Development must not be allowed outside of settlement limits.

**10. Wellbeing of our residents**

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

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

Any development close to the M5 will not stand up to proper assessment of air quality. This is particularly true east of the M5, given the prevailing winds. Current research overwhelmingly supports the value of access to woodland and open countryside with hedgerows as beneficial for mental health and general well being. The Blackdown Vale is easily accessible for residents in Taunton and offers all of these benefits and more. This area must be protected from development at all costs so that it can continue to be a place where all people can come to enjoy open countryside and woodlands and the diversity of wildlife that exists within them.

**11. Policies for our places: Taunton**

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

Not Answered

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

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

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

**12. Policies for our places: Wellington**

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

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