

# Response ID ANON-8CC9-KDNJ-X

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-01-25 20:54:26**

## Your details

**What is your name?**

**Forename:**

Carleton

**Surname:**

Lord

**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?**

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**What is your email address?**

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

## 1. Overview and objectives

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

Disagree

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

In the carbon neutrality section, I do not believe that offsetting is the answer

## 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?**

Allocate sites for specific renewable energy development

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

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

Solar panels to be part of all new housing stock.

## 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)?**

No - Watchet and Williton should be seen as separate settlements

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

More travelling required for these settlements to access supermarkets and work, also applies to Wiveliscombe.

**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 reduce in Minor Rural Settlements

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

Unless electric car usage becomes the norm, Minor rural settlements are going to add to the CO2 Emissions

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

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

Wellington should take a higher percentage of development if a rail station opens there.

Hinkley point C is in my opinion not relevant as the employment there once its finished is negligible.

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

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

Agree

#### **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):**

It needs to be a flexible figure

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

Require a proportion of development sites to provide an area for residential Traveller pitches; and/or

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

Not sure this would be popular with developers!!

**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):**

If we continue with the current trend, obesity will increase and people are likely to require more accessible buildings.

**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):**

Some control is required to make sure that the developments are not built in areas difficult to access from the transport point of view.

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

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

In agreement

#### **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):**

Increase in all jobs

**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?**

Develop flexible policy allowing for the loss of any existing/ proposed employment site subject to specific criteria

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

Retain sites with better transport links

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

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

In agreement

## 6. Infrastructure

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

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

3

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

1

**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):**

Holding the developers to task in the agreements made, ensuring the infrastructure is entirely or partly in place before sales of properties are made.

## 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):**

Making walking and cycling the sensible time and money saving choice. Reduce car parking provision in town centres and work places, increase secure cycle storage, encourage businesses and councils to provide showers and changing facilities.

Cycling must be made safe, reduce speed limits to 20 MPH and allow cycles to filter in to town centres where as cars need to take a longer route. (Dutch style)

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

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

Agreed, as stated above.

## 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):**

Better treatment of ground water and reduction in use of impermeable surfaces

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

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

In agreement

## 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):**

Agree

## 10. Wellbeing of our residents

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

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

Specifically agree with tree planting and highway design

## 11. Policies for our places: Taunton

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

Encouraging car-free developments (which could include allocating specific sites for car-free developments).

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

Town centre sites are suitable for car free living.

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

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

In agreement

## 12. Policies for our places: Wellington

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

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

In agreement, Relyon and swallowfield site would make good residential car free areas

## 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):**

Any new parking infrastructure to include car chargers 22kw min