

Response ID ANON-8CC9-KDDJ-M

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-03-01 18:33:28**

Your details

What is your name?

Forename:

Jane

Surname:

Marchent

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?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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):

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):

In addition, developers should be made to use permeable surfacing where they now use impermeable surfacing - make SUDs compulsory.

The Local Authority should take action as per the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Plan for the UK.

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):

Don't know.

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?

Not Answered

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

Increase in Taunton and reduce in Wiveliscombe. With Sandys Moor, Wiveliscombe has been allocated additional housing over and above its planned quota.

Not sure about increasing Wellington.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

I think option 2c (i) is very important and should be considered carefully.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

I would agree with these.

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):

We don't need any extra housing in addition to that already allocated.

In section 10 you say 13000 new homes are planned for Taunton alone so on that basis, very few new homes are needed for elsewhere.

I question whether affordable homes are the answer to any housing shortage. This leaves such housing in the hands of profit-driven developers. It would be better dealt with via council housing or maybe housing associations.

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

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

I would avoid proactive planning for this and just deal with it on a case by case basis, with strict criteria to apply to such pitches.

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):

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

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

Custom self build plots should just be allowed on a case-by-case basis in accordance with strict criteria on good design, quality and suitability of location.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

As above, I don't believe affordable housing is the answer - council housing and/or housing association housing would be better. Could you mix council housing with housing by developers?

What about design and quality - a recent audit report, 'Housing Design Quality Audit Report' prepared by UCL's Place Alliance and the CPRE has found that the majority of new build developments and homes are poor or mediocre.

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?

Not Answered

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):

Need to improve education - university, tech colleges, apprenticeships - to attract young people and give us a good labour force which will, in turn, attract employers.

6. Infrastructure

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

IO - 5a - ranking - Affordable housing:

4

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

2

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

3

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

1

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

5b/4 is absolutely crucial.

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):

Improve the bus service and/or maybe encourage car sharing.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Agree with all of these.

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):

As per the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Plan for the U.K.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Agree with all these.

Don't allow development on flood plains.

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):

Disagree with 8b/1 and 8b/5, Agree with the others.

10. Wellbeing of our residents

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

I would agree these. Libraries should be included when planning community facilities.

11. Policies for our places: Taunton

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

Positively encouraging taller buildings (subject to impact upon the skyline); or

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):

10b/4 - need to make sure that routes are also accessible for those people who are less able.

10b/5 - do not reduce car parking provision as this will deter people from coming into town Keep the park and ride.

12. Policies for our places: Wellington

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

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):