

## Response ID ANON-8CC9-KDS3-C

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-03-13 21:44:51**

### Your details

**What is your name?**

**Forename:**

John

**Surname:**

Pugh

**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):**

### 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?**

Identify suitable areas through criteria based policies

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

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

I am not in favour of solar panel farms sited on agricultural land. We seem to be lacking in imagination in this country. Across the Channel, as an example, supermarkets build solar panel 'farms' over their car parks, generating solar power and simultaneously giving shoppers shade from the sun and shelter from the rain.

### 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):**

No comment

**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):**

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

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

The housing allocations need to follow the local jobs. We need to avoid creating housing for commuters to Bristol or Exeter.

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

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

I agree with the objectives under 2b.

#### **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):**

Before considering raising the Government figure of 702, there should be overriding evidence that Taunton is going to be able to justify a commensurate number of jobs.

**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):**

The location of traveller sites needs to be through a thoroughly transparent process, so that neighbouring residents understand the need for them.

**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):**

To recognise that a significant cross-section of our community has mobility needs.

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

Include a positive encouragement policy, including for community-led projects, and leave the housing market to deliver plots as and when demand arises; 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):**

I support these policies.

#### **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):**

Increasing the proportion of higher-skilled jobs will raise the overall prosperity of the district, without the need to overtax local services.

**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?**

Allow the loss of specific sites for alternative uses – with a high flexibility buffer (i.e. fewer sites lost); or

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

Brownfield sites that are no longer seen as useful for their original purpose should be turned over to housing.

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

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

I support these policies.

## 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):**

I strongly support these policies.

## 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):**

Promote park-and-ride by delivering the service free of charge. At present it is cheaper for a family to park in town than to take the park-and-ride.

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

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

I fully support these policies.

## 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):**

Look at more innovative ways of protecting the crumbling cliffs, especially on the Bristol Channel.

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

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

I support these policies.

## 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):**

8b/1. Avoid any development outside settlement limits.

8b/3. Permit redevelopment on brownfield sites but not on greenfield.

8b/4. Protect sustainable agricultural land at all costs; our ability to feed ourselves will become critical in the coming years, particularly now we have left the EC.

8b/5. Resist development to the east of the M5, on prime agricultural land.

**10. Wellbeing of our residents**

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

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

I support all of these initiatives, with particular reference to 9a/4.

**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):**

To ease the congestion on the roads and improve pollution levels.

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

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

I support these policies.

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

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

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

Wellington deserves attention and these initiatives are a balanced approach.

**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):**

I agree with these policies.