

Response ID ANON-8CC9-KDZM-D

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-01-13 19:04:43**

Your details

What is your name?

Forename:

John

Surname:

Riches

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:

Mr

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):

Climate change and improved bus, cycling and walking provision are my priorities.

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):

It is important that the area works to get ahead on carbon neutrality, raising expectations of developers.

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):

The towns have distinct characters and challenges, so need to be considered separately.

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):

Put houses where there are jobs and good travel links to avoid creating high unemployment areas and increasing car travel to work.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

A lot could be achieved by providing good bus services in terms of making smaller communities commutable

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

No comments

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):

There should be a flexible target so that changing need can be accommodated

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

Apply rural exceptions criteria for small scale residential sites where pitches which would be affordable in perpetuity; and/or

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

Not sure I fully understand this

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):

People with disability are equal members of our communities and must be provided for

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):

No comment

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

No

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):

We need to provide jobs for all, not just one subset of the population

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 low flexibility buffer (i.e. more sites lost); or

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

We need to respond to market demand

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:

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):

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):

By prioritising cycle and walking over car use, with more highway space prioritised for these methods of transport.

Pedestrianise/cycle the whole town centre making it a more attractive place to work, shop and play.

Enforce car parking restrictions around schools, and other congested areas.

Support local cycling and walking groups in meaningful ways.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

While the area's highways are congested with polluting vehicles there is little chance of creating a better environment. The key is not to build more highways but to make bus/cycling/walking easier and safer.