

## Response ID ANON-8CC9-KDQF-W

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-02-10 16:38:59**

### Your details

**What is your name?**

**Forename:**

John

**Surname:**

Thwaites

**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?**

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):**

1c/1 that all new builds (houses, warehouse, offices) should have included in planning application. Solar, and other forms of energy capture. The council should also investigate battery substations for estates over 10 houses.

1c/2 investigation of all public car parking across the new council, have designated car charging points for visitors.

1c/7, in the aim to be carbon neutral, the process of selling recyclable martial aboard to such places as China, and Vietnam, goes into the face of such aims. Local industry should be able to help.

AOB.

Perhaps investigate, use of manure produce in farms and riding stables to generate power in biological digesters, producing power. The end product which is compost given back to farmers for the fields. That would stop the need for slurry pits.

### 3. Sustainable locations

**Question 2a: Do you agree with the tiers that identifies Taunton followed by 6 tiers covering the other settlements?**

No

**If not, what changes would you make and why? (200 words max):**

The question I have to ask if Tauton is to be turned into a garden town (along with Aylesbury I understand) what villages surrounding Taunton are they to absorb. Secondly with the building already in pipeline for both Williton and watchet, it seems they would in fact be almost one town.

So changes I would make ring roads around both tauton and Williton, which would be the new boundary around town/village . With a understanding that the boundaries not to be built beyond that line.

**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):**

History dictates that watchet is a town where as Williton is still a village.

Where as watchet had industry Williton had rural communities.

So if they was seen as associated settlements, investment and nhs/ council services would be continued to be concentrated into Williton and watchet seen as poor cousins.

**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):**

All three points, are banking on more people walking or cycling, which is impossible without danger, from Watchet to Minehead/Taunton.

There is nothing in these points discussion on roads.

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

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

Assuming in V) that roads are improved to Bridgwater to cut travel times (including for the HP community buses) I feel that watchet and Williton could become a greater focus for housing. But that can only happen with increases in services, to both.

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

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

### 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):**

If link to economic growth and services the area could support a higher % of housing. Subjected to increases in social housing

**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):**

I can't answer this, the greatest problem I find is that coming from Milton Keynes, I have seen access ble housing seems to be built in one area, turning it into a getoe, where people only see each other who have the same difficulties.

Better the council estate I grew up on where at the end of each close, there was 4 bungalows for aged and those who had the need for wheelchair access.

**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, Allow self-build plots on Rural Exception sites provided that they are secured as affordable housing for ever

**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?**

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):**

**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:**

1

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

3

**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):**

## **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):**

Electric buses, charging points, perhaps community electric cars. There is a scheme in large urban areas where you can book and pick up a car/ van and use it for set period.

How about having electric cars at charging points you could do same with

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

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

It is very Taunton centric. Yes if I lived in Taunton or Minehead I perhaps could walk or cycle to get weekly shop. Or use others services. Living in watchet you can't

## **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):**

1. Don't build at top of hills, and tarmac roads that generate ground water flooding down
2. Every house built 10 trees should be planted,
- 3 environmental reports should be part of every town plans. So all of SSI or woodlands hedgerows protected or replaced.
- 4 call on colleges and schools to set up environmental studies, and form links with universities that are running such courses.
- 5 identify areas for new woodlands, start a county wide tree planting initiative. Open out to local businesses, community groups, and other organisations. Like the National Forest in the West Midlands
- 6 perhaps start digging out the roadside ditches, to stop flooding, but also enable frog and newts to increase.
- 7 all new builds garden fences must have hedgehog highway build in.

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

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

Perhaps other where required for line of sight at road junctions. The road side verges, grass cutting should be restricted. And start up scheme for wild flowers planting in such verges

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

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

Not Answered

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

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

## **10. Wellbeing of our residents**

**Question 9a: 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):**

1 paper mill site, onion collective and Biohem are researching turning 1st organic materials, the plastic into wall insulation. With the aim to provide 170+ jobs. So the new council, interest and help would go a long way to improve watchet.

2 as the council is owner of the harbour perhaps investigate dredging to said harbour.