

## Response ID ANON-8CC9-KD12-9

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-03-05 18:18:04**

### Your details

**What is your name?**

**Forename:**

Judith

**Surname:**

Johnson-Smith

**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):**

There are areas that are not included in the plan which I have outlined in this survey

### 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):**

### 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)?**

Yes - Watchet and Williton should be seen as associated settlements

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

**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):**

Areas outside Taunton should not be reduced. There is a serious lack of affordable and social housing in these areas

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

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

**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?**

Not Answered

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

The government's figures do not fully take into account the need for affordable rentals within rural areas. In West Somerset there are no houses available week on week on the homefinder website which traps families in high rental homes in an area where wages are particularly low. It is impossible now for a local person to get a local affordable home without the need to move to the larger towns

**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):**

**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:**

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):**

The reason is to prevent the self-build programme being abused by developers for investment purposes only. Community-led projects should be encouraged and sites identified with conditions to protect the sites and homes to affordable status

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

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

There are large numbers of second homes and empty homes within the area of the plan and therefore more funds should be put in place to bring these homes back to use and higher council taxes put on second homes. An assessment of the need for so many new dwellings needs to take into account the number of houses that are not being used. There is no mention of this within this plan

#### **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?**

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):**

**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:**

1

**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):**

4

**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):**

Provide free car parks at stations and bus stations for long distant travel. A free car Park is needed near motorway junctions for the use of coach services. Eg Falcon Flyer to Bristol and Plymouth to encourage passengers not to use their cars for these journeys . Make public transport affordable and more available . Publicise and help develop online car sharing schemes such as BlaBlaCar

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

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

## **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):**

New homes should not be built on flood plains or on coastal areas in danger of coastal erosion

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

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

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

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

Not have settlement boundaries but instead have a criteria based policy to determine development proposals against; or

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

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

Housing should be provided where it is needed in rural areas and not be restricted to boundaries provided it is not for genuine affordable and permanent use with restrictions not to be used for second homes

### **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):**

These policies should continue and these coastal towns must be allowed to thrive as working communities and not just retirement areas.