

## Response ID ANON-8CC9-KDPE-U

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-01-27 11:53:50**

### Your details

**What is your name?**

**Forename:**

Juliet

**Surname:**

Shrimpton

**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):**

I agree that individually these are all appropriate objectives. The core theme that must through all of these objectives is sustainability. When there are objectives that are in conflict with the each other the most sustainable option should chosen. How are the council integrating sustainability targets into thier decision making?

Carbon neutrality should be applied to a much wide range of objectives rather than just new developments. Economic development is important but needs to be sustainable economic development

### 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):**

I do not disagree that carbon neutrality for all new developments is hugely important and should be achieved, but should also consider other sustainbilty options for all new developments including a cradle to grave approach to materials, targets for material reuse and recycling, use of local trade and skills in all development projects. Ensure all projects are contr buting the environmental and social net gain

through aspirational targets for new developments. Supporting installation of community/residential battery use should be prioritised in combination with local energy generation schemes. Increase take of natural flood management measures for landowners.

### 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):**

I think minehead should be in tier 2 rather than 3. They have roughly approximately the same resident population but minehead will have a much higher seasonal population. Minehead is the only main town in this rural location and plays a key role in the areas ability to be sustainable. Increased and better services and facilities in and around minehead will decrease the need to rural communities to travel taunton for services and as such the area will be become more sustainable and less reliant on Taunton/ wellington. It is rural areas that need more investment to be less reliant on seasonal trade. Although increased investment would naturally support tourism too.

I am concerned we are allocating housing without really considering how we want the area to grow. Building houses in the wrong location will just mean increased travel. Increase infrastructure and opportunity first then allocate housing. Largely People don't want to live in areas which have limited facilities, transport and opportunities. It feels that housing need is leading this discussion rather than giving people reasons to consider different locations.

**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):**

I am not sure. If there are the services in the town to support these additional populations then yes, but if they just become satellitesthat are self sufficiently in services, these does not seem sustainable. We have to make out centres sustainable for thier populations.

**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 suggestedbelow?**

Not Answered

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

As I said before I don't think is just about housing. Increased housing has to go hand in hand with additional investment in local infrastructures to make these towns sustainable. There is little point in adding more housing if there are no services to support those populations, it will just lead to more cars and increased journeys on the roads. The council I think has to start thinking a lot more about acting on a local scale/decentralising to achieve carbon neutrality. Increasing local services are key to reducing carbon. Are rural populations increasing or decreasing? If rural populations decrease then already limited services in rural areas will continue to decrease. Where is the housing demand?

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

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

All new housing has to have associated public transport service and cycle service option as integral. No new housing should be built without access to these. No new houses should have to be reliant on a car.

New housing in wellington should only be progressed once railway link has been confirmed. This has to be a priority before any new housing is allocated.

**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 the Government's minimum figure of 702 dwellings per year

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

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

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

What is the view of this part of the population - how would they like to see this issue addressed- what works for them. If the wrong approach is taken and there is no buy in from this community, it will not work.

**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:**

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, 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):**

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

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

Agree

## **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?**

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):**

Agree

## **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):**

Agree

## **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):**

Increase electric bus service, a better bus service. cycle lanes, community buses. Encourage those services to be provided locally. Change school allocation so people go to their local school, rather than personally choose based on performance. I.e reduce people's need to travel.

Increase use of electric car schemes, electric bikes scheme.

Redevelopment of the wellington to Taunton canal route as a commutable multi use trail with carbon saving benefits, health benefits, tourism and business opportunities, heritage benefits. This is. MASSIVE opportunity not to be missed.

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

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

As above - develop canal route - a must do for the area.

One problem for small rural roads is increased numbers of delivery vans making lots of separate journeys. Massive carbon impact, degrades road, causes jams. Look at innovat8v3 ways for courier companies to coordinate thier visits to rural villages and communities and highly imefficient currently.

**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):**

Mandatory targets for environmental net gain. Encourage Green roofs, reduce hard standing area, reduced maintenance. Pollinator planting. Less amenity grassland planting, wet woodland areas. Incentivise green infrastructure.

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

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

Agree, promote and encourage natural flood management. Ensure developments deliver multiple benefits. Tree planting allocations.

**9. Thriving coastal and rural communities**

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

Have a policy which is a hybrid of (i) and (ii) where there are settlement boundaries only in areas of greater development pressure i.e. parts of the District that are more accessible - closer to the M5, Taunton and Wellington areas.

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

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

Give local communities and villages a voice in how they want to improve thier local area.

**10. Wellbeing of our residents**

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

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

Agree. Do not think skyline is of high importance.

**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):**

All of above

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

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

Agree but go further and Be aspirational and look to make Taunton city centre a car free zone.

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

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

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

In addition to above. Open station. Develop canal route as a commutable multi - use trail. Improve transport links to outlying villages. Support the protection and developments of historic mills as mixed use hubs with multiple benefits.

**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):**

Agree