Response ID ANON-8CC9-KDX8-P

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**
Submitted on **2020-03-16 15:22:42**

Your details

What is your name?

Forename:
Martina

Surname:
Slater

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):

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):

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?

Increase housing in Taunton and Wellington; and reduce in Minehead and Rural Centres

Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):
Minehead and rural centres have poor transport links and are further from motorways so would require longer journeys for work, educational oppurtunities etc. Surely some areas in the country should be left as undeveloped as poss ble to help wildlife and the environment . Also with coastal erosion Watchet and Minehead are definitly not a good idea for development. Fast traffic is a major killer of wildlife and the area is one of the best in England for wildlife so needs protecting.

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?

The housing requirement should be the Government's minimum figure of 702 dwellings per year

Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):
Housing increases in the Westcountry should be kept to a minimum the area is out on a limb so will always need travel over longer distances which is not good environmentally .especially harmful for wildlife which needs all the protection it can get.

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):
Sites should be in areas where they can be easily monitored and cause minimum problems to neighbouring properties.

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):
There is an aging population and increasing disabled people who would benefit from these types of buildings and if they can be more independant for longer there will be less of a need for social care.

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):
This seems the best solution as it provides more freedom of choice .

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?

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 number of higher value jobs would be better as there would not be such an impact on the local environment yet would bring an increase in the local economy . Plus less necessity for spending so much on housing and infrastructure.

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 flex ble policy allowing for the loss of any existing/ proposed employment site subject to specific criteria

Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):
Flex bility is key in a rapidly changing environment.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):
4c/2 is very important. Generally in agreement with the other suggestions.

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:
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):
No comment

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):
Make public transport more convenient/frequent and affordable for all . There should be spaces on buses for cycles to encourage cycling to the bus stop and for onward travel. More cycle/footpaths between buildings to enable people to walk/cycle to there destinations quickly after alighting from public transport Safe and secure parking for cycles is vital .

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):
Additional policies sound good.

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):
Lower speed limits on all roads to protect wildlife and peoples health. Many animals including invertebrates are lost on our roads . Lower speed limits mean animals have a chance . All footpaths bridlepaths etc should be kept free of motorised vehicles .

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):
Yes I agree with the additional policy approaches

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):
Coastal development does not seem a good idea with rising sea levels and the necessity to limit damage /pollution of our seas . 8b/8 seems a very good idea anything that can be done to mitigate the damage caused by this dreadful and short sighted development would be good.