

## Response ID ANON-8CC9-KDDV-Z

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-02-23 21:56:33**

### Your details

**What is your name?**

**Forename:**

Michael

**Surname:**

Pitt

**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?**

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### 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):**

You should support the only viable means of transport for the majority of our residents and those within catchment ie the motor car with more park and ride and north and south ring roads for Taunton and a north ring road for Wellington. These will reduce traffic into and through the already congested town centres and assist the achievement of objectives 2,4,5,6 and 9.

### 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):**

Wind turbines disfigure beautiful landscapes and so should not be built on our lovely countryside.  
Solar energy panels should not be placed on good agricultural land.

### 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):**

Norton Fitzwarren is not mentioned in any tier. It is already large enough to qualify as a Rural Centre and has many more dwellings allocated but not yet built.

**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 distance between them is too great ; cf Milverton and Wiveliscombe.

**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):**

Smaller settlements need periodic population increases in order to sustain and keep existing services .Taunton and Wellington have large allocations already but without the necessary road infrastructure needed to accommodate all the extra traffic generated and so suffer increasingly from congestion and congestion generated pollution .

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

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

It can't go where the roads are because there aren't sufficient roads to connect with. More roads in the appropriate places reduce congestion and improve quality of life as well as the economic wellbeing of the town centre.

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

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

Please stop viewing motorists as the enemy; instead, try thinking of them as the people who bring their businesses and spending money to the town resulting in a thriving centre ,which benefits the whole district and most of Somerset, of which Taunton is the County Town .

### 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):**

More houses are needed to be built more quickly to satisfy the unmet need and to fund community infrastructure projects

**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):**

Such sites will not be built without direction from local government. Some sites are needed on the edge of Taunton and Wellington as travellers like to shop in towns as well as rest up in the countryside (as evidenced by the recent illegal camping in Blackbrook and Priorswood ).

**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):**

More and more of us are living longer , most of whom want to live independently in their own familiar home amongst familiar neighbours for as long as possible .

**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, 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):**

These are the most effective and cost efficient ways to facilitate self-build .

**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):**

We have not obtained the targeted higher value jobs so that ambition looks unlikely to be achieved.

Alignment will provide a more balanced society and economy.

**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):**

In the fast changing/ moving world we live in, flexibility is essential.

**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:**

3

**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):**

Infrastructure should include ring roads

## 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):**

More Park and Ride plus car parks just off the central area and accessible without driving through the central area. People living on the outskirts of town and beyond will not abandon their ( soon to be fuelled by green electricity or hydrogen) cars.

The only way to provide more bus transport in rural areas is to increase the number of people living in them who don't have a car and who will use the bus of necessity. The proposed train station at Wellington and extending the West Somerset railway line to Taunton station will enable many to leave their cars at home ; has anyone at West Somerset railway applied for some of the government allocated £500 million?

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

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

Moving cars from radial roads to ring roads will make it safer for cyclists and pedestrians to use the radial roads to access the central area and thereby encourage more cycling and walking

## 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):**

More trees,including fruit trees,grasses ,hedgerows and wild flowers to be planted .

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

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

A knowledge of history is essential to understanding the present and planning for the future but historic sites must " pay their way " which means be access ble by the public .The countryside is a living organism which needs must change with the times and adapt to the world as it exists ,not remain stuck in time ( it never was as idyllic as our poets and painters sometimes pretend and it was ,is and always will be red in tooth and claw )

## 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):**

We live in a fast changing world where flexibility is the key to a prosperous future and any criteria should be subject to frequent review

## 10. Wellbeing of our residents

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

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

Reduce town centre traffic congestion by providing roads which enable traffic to go around the town at 20 -30'mph rather than through it at 1-5 mph

## 11. Policies for our places: Taunton

**Question 10a: How do you think we could introduce more housing into Taunton Town centre?**

Positively encouraging taller buildings (subject to impact upon the skyline); or

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

As long as they are not unattractive,taller buildings can accommodate more people in a variety of home sizes and which will result in more dwellings with fewer bedrooms and without car parking

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

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

There should be no further reductions of available car parking in order to maintain an economically viable centre.

The planned housing increases mean that there should be more car parking spaces adjacent to the centre not fewer, but as that will not happen do not lose what we have.

## 12. Policies for our places: Wellington

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

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

A northern ring road / bypass is needed ,from Longforth farm to Westford and then to Spypost in order to alleviate town centre congestion.This could be linked to the new metro railway station.

## 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):**

Encourage the extension of the West Somerset railway to Taunton station