

## Response ID ANON-8CC9-KDQT-B

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-02-15 12:12:27**

### Your details

**What is your name?**

**Forename:**

Paolo

**Surname:**

van der Steenhoven

**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)?**

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?**

Increase housing in Taunton; and reduce in Minor Rural Settlements

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

**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):**

**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, 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?**

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, Include a requirement for all housing development sites over a threshold to include a proportion of plots as self-build plots; 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):**

#### **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):**

there's no university so either attract a university or develop SWAT into a major innovation centre for creative professions like web developers, architects, designers etc in order to create a better equipped, up-to-date and younger work population among a ageing population

**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:

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):

## 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):

better and safe cycle and pedestrian routes in and to/from Taunton, like Netherlands and Denmark;  
takes fresh designer skills and cutting outdated old car-comes-first approach;  
better lobbying for bus subsidies, better and clever connections, connecting railway AND bus station into ONE transport hub;  
higher frequency for trains between Bristol and Exeter, also in the evening

**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):

**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:**

Have settlement boundaries across the District; or

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

## 11. Policies for our places: Taunton

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

Requiring a housing mix skewed towards dwellings with fewer bedrooms; or

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

AND

Encouraging car-free developments

See also: <https://www.fastcompany.com/90457158/in-this-new-dutch-neighborhood-there-will-be-1-shared-car-for-every-3-households>

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

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

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

**Question 11a: 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):**

Keep the bus connection alive with higher frequencies.