

Response ID ANON-8CC9-KD11-8

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

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Your details

What is your name?

Forename:

Paul

Surname:

Barrell

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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██████████
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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):

They cannot be delivered. You have sites in the 2032 Plan that conflict with your objectives.

Example, Policy LT1

The Cleeve Hill site is only access ble by road, there is no public transport anywhere near it. Objective 1 gone.

No new infrasture planned to support it. Objective 5 gone.

There are no compliant footpaths, cyle tracks or public tansport. Objective 6 gone.

The historic character of Watchet will be destroyed by the principal route to and from the development using the single carriageway through the heart of the town. Objective 7 gone.

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?

Slightly more time (e.g. by 2030)

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):

You mentioned windfarms. I have no problem with them, except there was study that showed that it takes ten years of electrical generation for a turbine to overcome its carbon footprint for its original construction.

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):

Watchet and Williton see themselves as independent to each other and apart from the fact that Watchet people have to travel to Williton to see a doctor there is no connection. A big fear both towns have is being joined together by developments.

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 Wellington; and reduce in Minehead and Rural Centres

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

If you want to reduce carbon emissions then it makes no sense to have more people travelling from outlying areas. Also the trunk roads are not up to it and never will be. Also the rest of the infrastructure will never catch up.

From Minehead it is a 45 minute drive to catch a train (one has to drive because there are no buses back in the evening).

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Watchet is not close to Hinkley point, the journey is a real fag. Yes, Minehead is further than Watchet and Williton but in time there is not much in it.

It makes sense to concentrate housing development nearer to major transport routes (rail and motorway) and work possibilities.

Yes, Taunton's highway network is awful, but sending more vehicles into it from the west will make it worse. It takes twice as long to get to Taunton by bus as it does to drive there, adding another hour to the working day.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

I agree with 2b/1 to 4

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):

There is a flaw in your document. There should be another answer available - less than 702 dwellings per year

For our region the government's figure doesn't stack up. Where are these people coming from? Even if you allocate inappropriate sites you still need developers mad enough to buy them with a prospect of being left with them in 20 years time.

In 2009 Spain had over 1 million front doors with nobody living behind them, the result was a massive hit to the economy, the way we are going we could have the same problem.

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):

There was dedicated travellers site built in Colchester. It lasted a few years and then was bulldozed on health grounds. There is no answer as travellers do not fit with everyday standards, that is why they are what they are.

If they are true travellers they move on, what is required if for central government to instigate a network of sites round the country.

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?

Do not require specific measures for adaptable, accessible and wheelchair homes.

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

Its horses for courses.

I live in a house that was built to be disabled friendly. It has a large wheelchair size door to the utility room and downstairs cloakroom, but then it has three flights of stairs to the habitable rooms. Hopeless for a wheelchair. The house was built like this because it was dug into the side of a hill, it was never going to be suitable for disabled occupation, so has all the feature of a house for the disabled but no access!

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):

If somebody wants a distinctive home then they will not want it lost amongst others.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Not everybody wants to live in a house that disabled future proof.

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):

The workforce of the area is not that accustomed to high value jobs. What my local area requires are good long term jobs.

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?

Allow the loss of specific sites for alternative uses – with a high flex bility buffer (i.e. fewer sites lost); or

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

Flex bility is key.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

All fine

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:

2

IO - 5a - ranking - Accessible, Adaptable and Wheelchair Accessible homes:

3

IO - 5a - ranking - Strategic Infrastructure (schools, transport, community facilities):

1

Question 5b: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Unless you have the infrastructure in place then there is no point in building anything. The infrastructure in West Somerset is already overstretched.

The current S106 agreements are too narrow. For example there is a requirement to set aside money for extending school places but nothing for extending school places for SEN children in existing schools.

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):

Part 1. You can't if those people live in the country.

Part 2. More services and running later.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

All fine

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):

Keep clear

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

What about the seascape?

Where does protecting historic townscape fall in your plan?

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):

I agree with all of it.

However, existing Policy LT1 comes unstuck in respect of 8b/7.

10. Wellbeing of our residents

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

All fine

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):

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Making it more difficult for people outside the town to drive to and use the town will ensure they increase their reliance on on-line shopping, thus making Taunton even less of an essential hub that it is already. I already avoid Taunton whenever possible, making it more difficult would ensure I don't come at all. Bringing the weekly shop back on a bus is not an option.

12. Policies for our places: Wellington

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

I don't use Wellington

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):

The one big thing that is required is the recommissioning of the railway between Minehead and Taunton and preferably services to Birmingham. The majority of tourism in the area comes from Birmingham.

Taking some of the Butlins traffic from the A39 would make a massive impact.

Hopefully the harbour, marina and the mud at Watchet will get sorted. A good train service would encourage boat owners to keep/lay over their boats.