

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

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-01-13 20:50:26**

### Your details

**What is your name?**

**Forename:**

PAUL

**Surname:**

MUSGROVE

**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?**

██████████

██████████

██████████

**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):**

I hope that these are not in an order of importance. Also why is Taunton seen as a special case. Other towns such as Minehead and Wellington are as important especially if you wish people to travel less. The Council should beware of being "Taunton centric"; many in the area rarely travel to it.

### 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 live in a house which is carbon neutral and have built care homes and extra care homes that are nearly carbon neutral. There is no reason other than affordability and profit margins why such buildings cannot be built now.

### 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 Wellington; and reduce in Minehead and Rural Centres

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

If we are to increase housing numbers in minor rural centres public transport must be made available to access them from shops and places of employment. Ashbrittle, for instance, is about 3 miles from the closest shop up a single track lane and then another 2 miles along single tracks to the A38. Hardly a place to commute to employment or schools from.

**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?**

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

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

All new buildings should meet Part M so I don't understand the question. So far as wheelchair access ability is required, in my experience of building for older people it is more efficient to allocate a sum for adaptations for those who need it than to have a specific number of properties with enhanced Part M requirements.

**Question 3d: How should we provide for custom self-build plots? Should we:**

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):**

Although self build plots on Rural Exception sites may start off as affordable it is more than likely that they will pass out of that category after legal challenge in the same way as we have lost council houses.

**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):**

**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?**

Retain all existing and currently allocated employment sites; or

**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):**

Provide cycle paths that have right of way over vehicles in the same way as they have in the Netherlands and Belgium. Even in Taunton the cyclist has to stop (theoretically) at every minor road coming into the A38 on the way to Musgrove Park Hospital! Give pedestrians the right of way in towns. Why should they get wet whilst waiting in the rain to allow people in vehicles to pass by?

**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):**

## **10. Wellbeing of our residents**

**Question 9a: 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?**

Encouraging car-free developments (which could include allocating specific sites for car-free developments).

**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):**

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

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

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

The protection and enhancement of the Mills at Tonedale is important enough to attract public funding to start redevelopment.