

Response ID ANON-8CC9-KD4T-E

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-02-06 10:50:41**

Your details

What is your name?

Forename:

Roger

Surname:

Cornfoot

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?

Disagree

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

Many of the objectives are conflicting in their aims.

Whilst I understand the constraints applied by central government, I find many of the objectives unrealistic, if not laughable. I would sight 'carbon neutrality' as the obvious example. This is pure 'virtue signalling'. If you want to improve our climate, can I suggest buying a slice of the Amazon rainforest to ensure it is not cut down?

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?

Not Answered

Question 1b: Should we allocate sites for specific renewable energy development or identify broad areas which we consider suitable?

Not Answered

Question 1c: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?

Please provide comments (250 words max):

The above questions do not offer the options of 'neither'. Why not?

These targets are both ludicrous and pointless. The UK accounts for a little over 1% of carbon emissions. This low figure has only been achieved by exporting our manufacturing to the likes of China.

Even if, god help us, we are forced to achieve these silly targets, it would have zero impact on global (and therefore, our) climate.

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):

What on earth is a 'garden town'?

I think it is simply an excuse to build on green field sites, destroying valuable agricultural land.

You should be lobbying central government to achieve zero immigration instead. In each of the last 12 years, net growth has added a city the size of Plymouth!

'Sustainable' is more corporate 'b*****t'

I'd love to meet someone who wants to cycle to work in the middle of January, rather than drive.

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 suggested below?

Not Answered

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

Again, no option to disagree!!!

No. Reduce housing development across the board.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

It isn't required on the scale envisioned.

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?

Not Answered

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

Where is the 'less than 720' option?

Question 3b: How should we proactively plan for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople pitches?

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

Where is the 'non' option?

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):

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

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

Where is the 'non of the above' option?

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):

We already have too many low pay jobs. Most educated youth need to move away for higher paid work.

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:

IO - 5a - ranking - Designing for the Climate Change Emergency:

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

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

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

The main roads to Minehead from Taunton and Bridgwater need upgrading. At a minimum, large villages should be bypassed and strategic overtaking sections built.

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):

We should be making it easier to use our cars not harder!

Bus services are very poor in route availability, frequency, speed and comfort.

Lobby for better access from the south (us) to Bristol Airport.

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):

Stop sand extraction in the Bristol Channel.

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?

Not Answered

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

Improve car parking provision in the centre!

Question 10b: 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):

What is it with you guys and cycling?

Do you know what the average age of residents is in West Somerset?

What we need are comprehensive, affordable and frequent bus services!