

## Response ID ANON-8CC9-KDPV-C

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-01-27 17:33:17**

### Your details

**What is your name?**

**Forename:**

sarah

**Surname:**

drury

**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):**

The objectives seem sensible

### 2. Carbon neutrality

**Question 1a: Should we aim to require that all new development 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):**

ALL new builds should be required to reach high eco standards. Solar panels should be mandatory on all new builds and mandatory as a retro fit with any planning permission granted for home extensions beyond permitted development. Electric vehicle points are non-existent!!! I have a hybrid I charge at home but have zero options outside of that.

### 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):**

We need to ensure people live in areas of good transport and facilities wherever possible to reduce all the car journeys.

**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?**

Leave housing distribution the same

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

Seems a good balance given transport/connection to facilities, services and workplaces

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

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

IF Wellington was assured a rail link then it should take further development. However no development should take place until that is in place. Transport links from Wellington and surrounding villages are currently abysmal!

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

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

Previously developed land close to facilities MUST be considered first ALWAYS. We should discourage development within the AONB areas.

#### **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):**

This areas demographics show young people are moving away for bigger opportunity. Until the area can provide opportunities mirroring Bristol etc then the minimum should suffice

**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

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

Placing traveller sites in rural communities is a recipe for disaster. There is no infrastructure for them and would be zero law enforcement. Traveller sites should be small in size and part of any new larger scale developments in areas with facilities and services

**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):**

This makes total sense

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

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):**

Each large development should earmark self development plots

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

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

Seem sensible proposals

## 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?**

Allow the loss of specific sites for alternative uses – with a high flexibility buffer (i.e. fewer sites lost); 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):**

The absence of broadband in the rural areas is laughable and without doubt impacts on rural business. We CANNOT get land line broadband at all nor can our neighbours, 2 of whom work from home. CDS has been a total waste of time. If you cant link everyone up by landline then invest in 4g/5g masts that can

## 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):**

No

## 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):**

What public transport in rural areas. Our only bus service was removed at the same time our village shop closed. That means ALL shopping is a car/taxi ride away

We need eco public transport urgently to link people to services. Rural communities are forgotten

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

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

Seems sensible

## 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):**

We need to protect our valuable historic and natural environments.

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

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

Seem sensible

## **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):**

Any development in the countryside outside of settlement limits should be a true exception and only when a threshold is applied. We need to preserve the countryside as already we have seen much given over to development.

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

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

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

Seems sensible

## **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):**

Car free sites would be great as long as public transport is effective. Homes with less bedrooms actually don't make much of a difference on footprint but do in price! Avoid taller buildings

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

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

The current town centre is unfit for purpose and unattractive. A smaller central retail area which can actually be filled with retail with a mix of housing above would be better. The outer lying retail premises can then be housing

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

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

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

Seems sensible. Wellington is quite unique and overall a thriving centre. We should not lose Relyon and Swallowfield- they are major employers. Tonedale Mill development would be a fantastic live/work opportunity. I cannot understand with local needs why it hasn't already begun.

## **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):**

Seems sensible