

Response ID ANON-8CC9-KD8J-8

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-03-10 14:15:39**

Your details

What is your name?

Forename:

Sarah

Surname:

Hampson

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?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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):

But please be sensible over the amount of new homes you are building. Taunton town centre needs a lot of support and development in order to support the number of housing developments that are popping up all over Taunton. The town centre is in serious decline with more shops emptying, medical facilities can't cope with current demand and schools are to the maximum most of which with minimal funding.

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):

We talk about carbon neutral but surely removing woodland and green space and building all over it does not help the environment in any way - increased traffic, increased rubbish, increased energy used and less openland for rain run off.

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):

I agree that development should focus on Brownfield so why are we seeing more and more housing being developed on the lower tier areas, villages. it is a contradiction of your policy.

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):

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

M5 should not be used as a focus point for development.

Rural communities should not be destroyed for development.

Major urban areas such as taunton, wellington, minehead should be the focus for development but infrastructure must be addressed to support this.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Protect the communities. Don't let big developers ruin them

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):

Housing should meet demand - not just build blindly and hope we can fill them. There is little in Taunton at present that can support all this new home that is being built.

This seems a very high figure to keep building when nothing is being done to address the wider infrastructure.

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):

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:

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

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):

None.

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):

I am not sure where the council believe they can just magic up these jobs. Shops are closing every month on the high street - these provided jobs....where do these people work. It goes far beyond policy creating to make this 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):

No comments

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:

3

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

2

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):

Please look at infrastructure.

We have an amazing hospital - but is stretched due to lack of resources

We have some incredible schools, some of which are ranked some of the best in the county and country, yet survive by the skin of their teeth with no funding or support. We must support these vital resources for future generations. Building new homes and squeezing more children in to schools is not an answer.

Roads are falling to pieces. I see a man in yellow coat out every day spraying the massive pot holes in the road - nothing ever happens with them.

Community facilities need support.

Doctors surgeries are stretched.

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):

More bus route. Some of the small villages that you are determined to build all over have no bus route into town.

Stop changing the parking in town....pay by phone, barriers... why waste money changing the system that already worked.

Help the high street to thrive - why on earth would anyone want to go to Taunton when half the shops are closing down.

Get the car park done at the station....its a disgrace how slow progress is and how far behind time this project is. Causing mass disruption for many and not enough parking for people to use it.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

No.

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 developing...the question what can new developments deliver to improve biodiversity. This is a contradiction - you can't help the environment by destroying green spaces and building ugly buildings on top.

Recent flooding due to rain is only going to get worse the more we build on green space.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Your Policy says protect and preserve yet intentions show that you plan to allow large developers build on considerable areas of open farmland. This is a complete contradiction.

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):

Settlement boundaries exist yet are ignored.

We need to stop large planners destroying the environment and communities.

No great scale development should be allowed beyond the M5.....otherwise when will it stop.

Protect Historical assets. Heritage is being swamped and lost by these large scale developments.

10. Wellbeing of our residents

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Extra developments especially in rural areas have no consideration on the impact on residents. Residents are ignored and purposefully not included. Any large scale impact will ruin residents ambience, traffic, pollution, increased numbers in villages that thrive for being intimate and small.

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):

Where will these new people do their shopping - look at the high street it is in serious decline.....this development in town will mean loss of more shops to allow new houses or you will build anyway and they have no open shops on the high street for them to shop at.

Use the existing buildings that stand empty for housing. Use the existing empty brownfield locations for new housing.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

If you stick to the above policy that sounds good but it is unlikely that will happen.

12. Policies for our places: Wellington

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Wellington is a thriving market town - almost more so than Taunton. Protect it - don't ruin it.

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):

Support and enhance it - don't ruin it.