

Response ID ANON-8CC9-KDP7-D

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-01-30 12:09:10**

Your details

What is your name?

Forename:

Stewart

Surname:

Hill

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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██████████
██████████
██████████

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):

The 2030 carbon neutral target will not be achieved with only actions applied to new planning developments. It will be achieved with a large amount of change to our present way of life.

A huge amount of regular dialogue as well as action is needed to nudge people into sufficiently different habits.

The local plan must offer the flexibility to continuously create the changes to infrastructure and life styles, as and when opportunities and public opinion are changed.

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?

Allocate sites for specific renewable energy development

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

new developments ; solar panels, ground source heat pumps, electric charging points mandatory. Shared energy schemes like CHP where it is possible on larger developments.

Can the local plan influence existing owners to move toward carbon neutral housing? Perhaps by example.

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)?

Not Answered

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

don't know enough for an opinion

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):

I assume this chart is reflecting the current population distribution

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Wellington rail station is still a long time away, and if it does open, few trains will stop at both Taunton and Wellington.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

2b/1-4 additional policies all seem good additions

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):

at this time we are on the cusp of a radical change in planning for a carbon neutral lifestyle in the population as a whole, as well as SWT policies. The demands for housing in, say, 7 years from now are unknown, therefore the local plan should be flexible to allow for future reviews and changes in land use, as climate change and shopping habits, and work opportunities change through time.

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):

A larger number of small sites are probably easier to manage than fewer large sites, and helps to normalise the lifestyle with the neighbourhood

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):

The % will be very small, and it is a reasonable requirement for an ageing population

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, 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):

an encouragement policy is flexible, but not in itself a clear direction, therefore should also include some proposed sites to stimulate self-builder demand.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

3e/4-7 policies all seem very reasonable.

Don't have enough knowledge to understand differences in 1-3

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):

There will be economic growth in some fields, eg renewables, but a downturn in other areas, as carbon neutral ambitions are achieved. Overall % economic growth across the nation is no longer the economic model that should be pursued. SWT needs to position itself to benefit from the growth areas, and protect from the downturns.

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):

See previous comments. Flexibility is key to success.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

4c/1-9 are all good, and should be regularly advertised to encourage take up.

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):

no comments

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):

- For 9 months subsidise free commuter & shopper bus travel to all, from all town & village centres. After 12 months, re introduce fares for all except unemployed & students which match the equivalent travel + parking cost. If the routes are going where people want to go, the busses will be full. (Use contract min bus services for the villages.)

- Charge private companies and supermarkets etc for their private car parks

- Build cycle paths everywhere that are not dangerous to cyclists.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

6b/1-3 policies are needed, and should be publicised, discussed, encouraged, to nudge other similar improvements in existing housing, roads and lanes.

Question every existing "No Cycling" signpost.

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):

Don't rip out existing hedgerows and trees. Build around them, and plant many more trees and hedges inside the housing area.
Create new planted spaces around the edges of developments.
Include ponds.
Link every new green space to neighbouring and internal housing spaces, to create a network of corridors for small animals.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

7b/1-12 seem good.
Put 7b/12- tree planting, at the top as 7b/1
Encourage private and public land management for bio diversity and climate change by any means available to SWT .
reduce grass cutting. Increase wildflower banks on road verges roundabouts etc.

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):

no comments

10. Wellbeing of our residents

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

9a/1-7 seem very reasonable policy additions

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):

The town centre does not need cars, except for delivery and loading. Support the P&R services better.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

10b/1-10 are reasonable
10b/10 should be at the top, with 10b/4 next.
Green corridors with walking /cycling should be the priority in place of cars.

12. Policies for our places: Wellington

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

11a/1-7 policies seem reasonable.
Tonedale mill does not need to be converted entirely to a conservation area which would restrict opportunities for development.
The land around the buildings is a local asset with many potential uses, greening, employment, recreation, etc

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):

no comments