Response ID ANON-8CC9-KDXV-M

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**
Submitted on **2020-03-14 21:58:26**

Your details

What is your name?

Forename:
Tania

Surname:
Watt

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):

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):

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 suggestedbelow?

Leave housing distribution the same

Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):
? - I would have put Not Known if this was an option.
Housing should be provided to meet demand - if the current housing distr bution best meets the needs of the population, it should remain. If not, it should be changed.
Where do people want to live?

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):
Taunton's highway network is currently totally inadequate at key times of the day, although this is probably exacerbated by the J25 Roadworks. Additional housing has potential to cause gridlock.
Taunton centre carparks are often at capacity during daytime, which could be made worse by more housing.
Hinckley Point C is l kely to be a significant employer so houses should be planned for potential increased demand in the likely travel to work area.
Houses built closer to the M5 are more likely to be purchased by commuters to eg Bristol or Exeter, who can benefit from the road network, than by people who already live in the Council area and need housing. Houses should be built to meet local demand, wherever that is.

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):
?
Housing requirement should meet local need, which may be equal to, higher or lower than 702 dwellings per year. Unmet need from other authorities would not necessarily be best provided in this area as the potential inhabitants might want to live where they are and not move away from friends, family, schools, employment etc.

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):
Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople need somewhere to pitch. If no sites are provided, they will be forced to pitch illegally eg in parks, other public spaces or farmland, and are unl kely to have basic needs such as sanitation met.

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 proportion to meet Building Regs Part M should be commensurate with the number of people in the area who require specific measures. It is likely to be much more expensive/not possible to retrofit a new build to make it wheelchair friendly, as corridors, doorways, turning circles, worktop heights etc may not be suitable for a wheelchair user. Consideration should be given to the needs of all, including those who have specific accessibility requirements.

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, 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, 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):

'For ever' is unlikely to be sustainable - Choice 4

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?

Not Answered

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?

Not Answered

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:
4

IO - 5a - ranking - Designing for the Climate Change Emergency:
1

IO - 5a - ranking - Accessible, Adaptable and Wheelchair Accessible homes:
3

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):

Climate change is the top priority - if there is no Earth, the rest is irrelevant.
The significant number of houses required to be built is likely to encourage families. They will need schools etc so having these provided by house builders is likely to increase the demand for the new houses. House builders already make healthy profits so requiring them to provide strategic infrastructure is not unreasonable.

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 a reasonably priced, reliable public transport service and people will use it.
I have given lifts into Taunton (2.5 miles) to teenage hitch h kers who had already walked 2 miles, because the local bus had driven past them at the stop.
I have also driven my husband to Heathrow airport at just gone 5.30 in the morning when the scheduled airport bus left 5 minutes before it's departure time, despite him having bought a ticket online so the driver should have expected him.
Currently, public transport cannot be relied on so people are forced to use alternatives, which probably means drive themselves in their own car.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Current broadband provision is extremely poor, with frequent periods of no broadband every day. This is in a village 2.5 miles from Taunton. Working from home with inadequate broadband is not really poss ble.

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):
New developments should not impact negatively on our landscapes, historic buildings or biodiversity.

Question 7b: 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 onthese 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):
A car free development sounds great in theory, but in practice people are likely to want somewhere to park a car, even if only for visitors or deliveries. If a development is a car free zone, inhabitants will be forced to park elsewhere and wa k the final part of their journey home, which will increase pressure on existing roads and carparks elsewhere.
Wa king with a weeks shopping for a family is not really feas ble.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):