Q1: Please provide your contact details in the boxes below:

Name: Neale Taylor
Address 1: 
Address 2: 
Town: Northampton
Postcode: 

Q2: Are you an agent responding on behalf of another?
No

Q3: If you are an agent responding on behalf of another, please enter your details below:
Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 3: Consultation on the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)

Q4: Do you have any comments on the vision for the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)?

I was interested to hear of the Council’s current Local Plan and thank your representative for her clear presentation.

I was very surprised to find there was no section of the plan specifically relating to planning for Traffic and Transportation in Northampton.

This would seem to undoubtedly be a matter of concern across the town given the traffic congestion often experienced during the working day. There is also the aspect of pollution (when I note that parts of the town were reported in the national press as being amongst the worst in the country for air pollution on occasions this summer).

The Northern relief road is long overdue but will only help towards part of the problem. Also I note that there are a number of improvements in hand to roads, and especially at road junctions, in the town but this this can only be a temporary solution as the town is expected to grow substantially in the next 10 years and people will tend to drive more unless satisfactory alternatives are provided.

I read of many towns in Britain which have looked at more radical solutions which all seem to revolved around improved and more reliable public transport such as park and ride schemes, extended bus lanes, guided bus ways and tram systems. I regularly visit Nottingham and I understand that the integrated public transport system they have established over the last 10 years or so is reported as having led to a noticeable reduction of car usage. Leeds & Bristol are amongst others are now moving towards similar schemes.

I do not have the expertise to offer you any specific solutions but it does seem to me to be remiss that this has not merited a substantial section of your current local plan.
Q5: Do you think there are other objectives that should be included?

There is a need to provide much improved and more clearly defined links between the centre of town (primarily an improved bus station) and the rail station and the General Hospital. I do not use the rail station as often as I would like (e.g. for days out) as parking there is difficult and expensive so I use my car. I have to allow an hour from my home in Kingsthorp to get to the station and the same getting home (partly because the bus is not infrequently unreliable). It's a 10 minute journey by car.

Likewise visiting the hospital where a link bus only runs every half hour.

Q6: Do you agree that we should apply a 20% housing land supply buffer to our housing land supply?

I would need to know more about this before commenting.

Q7: Do you agree with a residential density of 40 dwellings per hectare outside of the sustainable urban extensions, with higher densities in the town centre, other centres and along key transport corridors?

I am surprised that 190 houses are to be built on the Kingsthorp middle school site (there are 76 houses on the estate it will be adjacent to in about the same area. The comparison is extreme! Will we be creating tomorrow's slums with such high densities?

Q8: In allocating sites for housing development, do you agree that we should give priority to sites that can be delivered in the short term?

No comment

Q9: What other actions would help new homes to be built and completed more quickly on the identified sites for housing development?

Respondent skipped this question

Q10: Do you agree that we should identify sites for specialist housing?

Respondent skipped this question

Q11: Do you agree that we should identify sites specifically for the provision of older persons housing?

Respondent skipped this question
Q12: Should allocations for general housing include a proportion of smaller market dwellings (1 and 2 bed)?
Yes, definitely.

Q13: Should the plan specify a threshold or proportion of serviced plots to ensure the delivery of custom build and self build plots?
Respondent skipped this question

Q14: Do you agree that there is demand for more small scale office space, especially in the town centre?
Respondent skipped this question

Q15: Do you think that dated, low value office stock in the town centre is oversupplied?
Respondent skipped this question

Q16: Do you agree that outside the town centre, some medium and larger office allocations should be released to provide small or medium sized industrial and distribution uses to help meet demand for these uses?
Respondent skipped this question

Q17: In demonstrating that existing employment sites have been actively marketed before they are considered for release to other uses, should active marketing be required to be undertaken for a minimum period of 12 months or 24 months?
Respondent skipped this question

Q18: Do you agree that we should allow more flexibility in some smaller centres for other uses to be introduced?
Respondent skipped this question
Q19: Do you agree that we should review the secondary retail frontages policy, which restricts non retail uses in some sections of frontage, to allow greater flexibility for non retail uses in some areas?  
Respondent skipped this question

Q20: Do you think that within the town centre, some of the medium and larger sized office allocations are oversupplied?  
Respondent skipped this question

Q21: Are there any other Development Management policies that you think should be included in the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)?  
Respondent skipped this question

Q22: Do you have any comments on the Sustainability Appraisal of the Options Consultation Paper? (Please identify the page, paragraph number(s), table or appendix within the Sustainability Appraisal to which each of your comments applies).  
Respondent skipped this question