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Subject: Local Food Production and Security Request

Date: 2023-12-19 11:37

From: [jogc@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:jogc@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk)

To:

Dear Councillors,

I am asking all Town & Parish Councils to help support local food production and security in their responses to the North Somerset Council's (NSC's) Corporate Plan and Local Plan 2039 consultations.

It is unfortunate that the timing of these consultations is over the Christmas period, closing on the 10th and 22nd January 2024, respectively. However, I believe that your response to this issue at any level will benefit the health, well-being and economies of all our residents.

My fellow Bleadon councillors and I are concerned that, although food is one of the government's 13 Critical Infrastructure Sectors, NSC's policies do not appear to reflect this status. The proposed Local Plan appears to potentially allocate agricultural land to other NSC priorities such as solar, nature recovery and biodiversity net gain projects, housing, highways, etc., without clearly stating where or how the food that was produced on that land will be 'offset', and continue to be produced.

If you have not done so already, please consider a response to the proposed Local Plan DP53 'Best & Most Versatile Land' policy (as attached). I have also attached a document with aspects you may wish to consider in your response with NSC mapping, a short video, various government, NHS, NSC, etc. links.

If you would like to discuss this with me, have any questions or suggestions, or would like me to explain anything, please let me know.

Kind regards,

Cllr Jo Gower-Crane  
Bleadon Parish Council  
(Climate Change & Biodiversity)