

From: Jo

Sent: 11 March 2026 15:36

To: Mandy Bishop

Cc: PA To Leader Of The Council, Chairman BPC; Clerk BPC

Subject: FW: Land use and food security - Full Council address 24th February 2026

Dear Mandy Bishop,

My apologies, I've just noticed that I've not copied you into the correspondence below and attached, it was not intentional (as I was belatedly told you were at the original meeting).

As you may be aware, I've been trying to arrange an agreed meeting with your Local Plan Team since December, to discuss how the new Local Plan can help to protect land used for essential farming, food production and food security, as it currently does not seem to do so.

We believe that the NPPF can assist NSC to protect the food producing land via, for example, but not limited to:

- S1 - Positive plan-making (strategic policy - identifies land where development would undermine food production or rural land uses, restricts non-food production development)
- S2 - Producing a spatial strategy (core plan-making policy - designates and safeguards that food producing land)
- S5 - Principle of development outside settlements (structural protection - reinforces safeguards for food-producing land)
- PM8 - Evidence for plan-making (proven need for land use constraints for food production, links with local, regional and national food production and security)
- PM9 - Identifying land for development
- PM15 - Examining local plans and minerals and waste plans
- Chapter 4 - Achieving sustainable development
- Chapter 19 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

There is also a valid concern that the unprotected land may be developed if NSC join [WECA](#). WECA's current consultation title is revealing, 'Expanding the West of England Combined Authority into North Somerset' However, we believe the NPPF can help protect food production land via:

- PM10 - Maintaining cooperation between plan-making authorities
- PM11 - Demonstrating cooperation between plan-making authorities

With regards land use prioritisation:

- Food production should take priority, as it is one of the [13 Critical National Infrastructure \(CNI\) sectors](#).
- Housing (despite government's current 'targets') is not a CNI. Also, CPRE has stated that over half of the 1.4 million brownfield sites could be built on rapidly, there is no need to use valuable food producing farmland. This will require better cross-boundary and national coordination.
- Solar generation is treated as part of the wider Energy sector, not as its own critical sector. Solar farms fall under electricity generation, but the CNI framework does not treat individual generation technologies (solar, wind, biomass, etc.) as separate critical sectors. Instead, they are components of the broader Energy sector. Therefore, food production has higher national priority than solar deployment. Solar should be built on roofs not fields.

We would also like to know the response NSC submitted to the recent NPPF Consultation, to ensure future protection of farming, food production and food security within North Somerset and surrounding area.

We look forward to a meeting with Local Plan policy makers in the near future, before the Local Plan is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Kind regards,

Jo

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From: Jo

Sent: 08 March 2026 21:31

To: Cllr Waite

Cc: Natalie (Local Plan Team) Matt.Lenny (Public Health and Regulatory Service); Jessika (Democratic and Electoral Services); Chairman BPC; Clerk BPC; All NSC Cllrs

Subject: Re: Land use and food security - Full Council address 24th February 2026

Dear Cllr Waite,

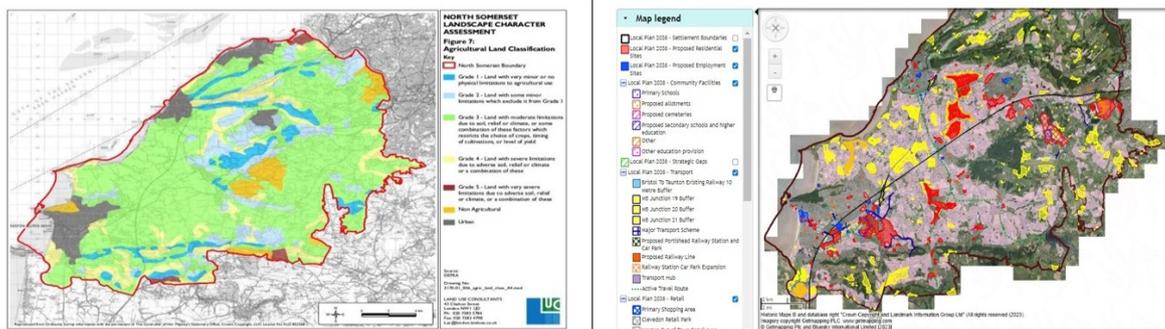
Thank you for your prompt but short response to my [address to Full Council on the 24th February](#), as seen below. However, this 4th March response still does not answer outstanding policy concerns. We would hope that, at this point in your plan-making process, you or your officers would be able to quickly and easily answer outstanding questions, and reassure residents that your proposed Local Plan does indeed protect farming, food production and food security.

Your response states, “*National security risks, like food security, are managed through government policy*”, but as you are aware, DEFRA indicates government policies have led to the current “*food and farming emergency*”. As you are also aware from the November [Westminster debate](#), cross party representatives are concerned, and agreed land needs to be protected.

Government indicates that farming and food production land use designations is your/Local Plan responsibility. No protected farmland, less food production, resulting in food security issues.

So, how specifically does your proposed Local Plan protect and/or affect farming, food production and security over the next 20 years? The images and table below try to illustrate our concerns.

Agriculture Land Classifications vs NSC Local Plan solar, wind, housing, etc. proposals on that land



The image on the left shows agricultural land classifications covering North Somerset. The image on the right is from the NSC mapping system in 2023, showing potential permitted development of solar, housing, wind, etc. DP53 states, “*The proportion of Grade 1 land in North Somerset is approximately 7% and 10% for Grade 2. 60% falls in Grade 3*” (Dark blue, light blue and green respectively on the left hand side image) yet the plan permits development on it, via exceptions. The proposed Local Plan therefore appears to permit unrestricted development across the whole of the area.

If all landowners want to develop or diversify their land use over the next 20 years, what Local Plan or government policies would prevent the near total removal of farmland and food production, as indicated in the image on the right above? What would be the effect on the rural economy, related communities and the 50% tenant farmers and their families?

I've waited patiently since meeting with you and Cllr Canniford in January 2024, where you proposed a potential 'farming, food production and security' Supplementary Planning Document, to accompany the

Local Plan. What happened to that proposal and its public discussion? Despite chasing, we've been waiting since 5th December, for an agreed meeting with the Local Plan team. The Local Plan is stated to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate at the **end of March**, yet many key questions still remain unanswered, including whether the final plan will go to Council, and whether a response regarding farming & food production was submitted to the NPPF consultation.

The lack of open and transparent 1-2-1 and public discussions, and clear responses at the local level to date, indicates that the very serious concern of farming, food production and food security is not being properly addressed by NSC, either by officers or councillors.

As previously agreed, we would appreciate a face-to-face meeting, with someone who can answer these long outstanding Local Plan concerns, as soon as possible. Please see attached [document for more detailed discussion](#).

Kind regards,

Jo

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From: Cllr Waite

Sent: 04 March 2026 09:29

To: Jo

Cc: Natalie (Local Plan Team); Matt Lenny (Public Health and Regulatory Service) ; Jessika (Democratic and Electoral Services)

Subject: Land use and food security

Dear Jo

Thank you for coming to our Full Council meeting last week, and for raising your concerns about land use, food security and our Local Plan.

National security risks, like food security, are managed through government policy rather than at local authority level. As has been explained previously, the emerging Local Plan contains policies to support local food production (most notably Policy DP5: Climate change adaptation and resilience, and DP53: Best and most versatile land). The plan must balance competing pressures for land and the government's requirements for us to meet a challenging housing target. We are currently considering the responses made as representations to the Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation, and these will subsequently be submitted to the examining Inspector to also consider in due course.

We are all concerned about food security, especially in the uncertain times in which we live, so I thank you for raising this issue again.

Kind regards

Annemieke

From: Jess (Democratic and Electoral Services)

Sent: 04 March 2026 10:45

To: Jo

Cc: Hazel

Subject: Response - Public Participation Live Stream Interruption

Good morning Jo,

Thank you for bringing the issues with the YouTube stream to my attention. I apologise that this has happened and can assure you that your full address was made available to the relevant parties for the purpose of responding to your address.

After consulting with the team who manage this function, they have confirmed the recording was interrupted for a short period during the address. This is owing to an external issue where YouTube has either lost the stream or had a technical problem with its internal systems. This is neither something that was apparent at the time of the meeting or something that could have been resolved at a council level. We will continue to monitor whether this is an isolated incident.

Interested parties can attend the physical meeting, but we cannot guarantee that the YouTube link will remain in permanence or that there will not be technical issues on occasion. The minutes are the formal record of the decisions taken. There are no decisions to be taken during public participations, but a brief summary of the address made to Council is included within the minutes (including for any response received from Cabinet Members and Directors), which are a matter of public record.

Kind regards,

Jess

Committee Services Senior Officer
Democratic and Electoral Services
North Somerset Council

From: Jo

Sent: 27 February 2026 15:29

To: Jessika (Democratic and Electoral Services)

Cc: Chairman BPC; Clerk BPC; Hazel ; All NSC Cllrs

Subject: RE: Request to speak at Full Council 24th February 2026

Hi Jess,

Please find attached a copy of my address to Full Council on Tuesday.

As you'll be aware this meeting was video recorded by NSC and made accessible to the public on YouTube.

Please can you explain why the middle 3 minutes, of my 5 minute address, are missing on this recording, from around 36:32 minutes <https://youtu.be/Cr7MOAimtBM?t=2186>

This has removed public and councillor visibility of the concerns and key points raised with regards to the imminent Local Plan submission, for all land use and food security not just this one site for bats, which was the main focus of my address? It therefore currently misrepresents my full address.

I have [highlighted the missing section in yellow](#) in the attached document for your reference.

Kind regards,

Jo