

**North Somerset Council Transport, Climate and Communities Policy and  
Scrutiny 25th July 2024 – Public Address**

Some of you may recall that I came to speak last November about issues around food security, and in December I was given the opportunity to speak to the Exec. Subsequently I met with two members in January, who acknowledged that the Local Plan was lacking in protection with regards to food security along with the land required to produce that food.

Last week the council was asked to call a Food Security Emergency based on the fact that, if the council has called a climate and nature emergency, and food depends on both the climate and nature, then it follows that there will be a food security issue.

Before attending the today I took another look at the council's [Climate Emergency Action Plan](#) and on page 49 it says that, "Enclosed farmland makes up 68% of all land in North Somerset."

However, it goes on to say that the council needs to "Identify more areas of council land for re-wilding/management for biodiversity and manage 30% land for biodiversity by 2030" in order to replenish its carbon stores, along with planting "50,000 trees and introduce tall grass manage to 40 hectares of open space". There is also a threat to the land from housing and renewable energy projects and the potential threat of war, which may reduce our food imports further.

The council has said that it will "engage and support the farming community to improve green infrastructure on farms, which will enable significant improvements to green infrastructure in North Somerset and will also reduce the carbon intensity of agriculture."

I would therefore appreciate an update on how food production has been protected over the last eight months since I came in November, and what is the plan for the future to protect it.

Thank you