

## **URGENT ACTION REQUIRED: TO AVERT A MAJOR PLANNING CATASTROPHE**

### **FORMAL NOTICE OF A FOOD SECURITY & RESILIENCE EMERGENCY, FOR THE ATTENTION OF:**

Kate Kennally, **Chief Executive Officer**  
Paul Grant, **Service Director - Finance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer)**  
Alice Gunn, **Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer)**  
Holly Sykes, **Chief Internal Auditor, Head of Audit & Electoral Services**

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**Our correspondence address:** 'Landithy', 4a Monument road, Helston, Cornwall, TR13 8HF.

Date 10 July 2025

Dear Sirs & Madams,

### **NOTIFICATION OF A FOOD SECURITY & RESILIENCE EMERGENCY** **(our REF: CC/002 Cornwall)**

This letter **notifies you and your organisation of an emerging 'systemic emergency'** concerning regional food security and resilience.

Farmers & growers across the region are attempting to warn the public about a food system that is in a 'systemic' crisis. Additionally, in January 2025, a UK food resilience gap report on behalf of the National Preparedness Commission identified a **'serious gap in state thinking and policy'**.

To investigate this issue in January 2025 a regional gathering of concerned citizens was held followed by a *'Concerned Citizens Advisory Assembly'* (CCAA). The CCAA **unanimously endorsed a recommendation that councils across the region must declare a food security and resilience emergency.**

Furthermore, the **'strategic risk' impact to the region if preventative measures are not taken was considered to be CRITICAL, the highest category ranking.** In comparison with any other political or ideological agendas and in service to the wellbeing and prosperity of this region and its people this was considered, by this Assembly, to be the **highest priority regional emergency.**

**A recording of the assembly vote provides a summary of the situation.** It is supplemented by a summary 2 page flyer, a 47 page paper, pod cast links to some keynote speakers and further references that can be found on:

<https://ccadvisoryassembly.co.uk/2-food>

[www.sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk](http://www.sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk)

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### **A. Seven advisory recommendations**

Emerging from the inquiry were the following seven headline advisory recommendations:

1. Food security & resilience is at a crisis and should outrank any other political agenda or emergency. **Councils must declare a 'food security crisis' and Local Authorities must create food systems resilience committees as an 'emergency' measure to urgently improve food security.**
2. A target of **85% food self-sufficiency by 2030** is established for the region and its communities.
3. To achieve this: a **'partnership of support'** is necessary between the people and farmers. This includes closer connections, buying direct from markets and farm shops, both community and council supported growing projects, allotments, home growing and land sharing.
4. **Regenerative and no dig farming are promoted as best practice.**
5. **Independent public education about the health effects of production intensive farming, GMO's and artificial foods.**
6. Re-direction of public sector emergency powers, funding & resources
7. Full scenario planning and strategy making for the region (*please note that the outputs from this inquiry are offered as an initiation to a fuller regional scenario planning exercise*).

### **B. Why this 'emergency' is being notified to Cornwall Council (CC) in this manner.**

We draw to your attention our **NOTICE OF RECTIFICATION** letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 and subsequent **NOTICE OF ESCALATION** letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and **NOTICE OF DEFAULT** (our REF:CC/001 Cornwall) dated 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025. See website page link below:

<https://sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk/cornwall>

These notices informed your Executive and organisation about serious organisational failures and gaps concerning emergency declarations, planning, management, governance and audit through the example of the emergency climate declaration, net zero targets and plans.

**Previously, through 'rectification and escalation notices' we informed you that if left unchecked** these organisational issues with subsequent strategies and plans being developed and executed through such an inappropriate system pose an imminent and potentially catastrophic threat of harm to the wellbeing and prosperity of this region and its people. **We re-affirm that it is clear that your organisation has NOT been designed and developed for the purpose of systemic emergency management.**

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To avoid such a planning and policy related catastrophe, in Cornwall, we **formally notified you with copies to the Monitoring Officer and Internal Audit that urgent and immediate rectification action was necessary**. We offered suggestions, for your consideration, regarding appropriate rectification measures.

**These notifications were met with inappropriate responses that further demonstrated that CC and its Executives were NOT FIT to conduct emergency management.**

**In response**, and serving as an escalation measure, a ‘*Concerned Citizens Advisory Assembly*’ (CCAA) has been established. This has a regional focus to address and mitigate the root causes of the serious and ongoing institutional & organisational failures that were demonstrated through the series of freedom of information inquiries and, subsequently communicated through previous notices. **The root cause of these organisational problems may be considered as being multiple gaps and failures in advisory practice, strategy making and governance.**

The purpose of the CCAA is to offer informed, independent, impartial and non-political advice accompanied by possible solutions concerning emergencies and in so doing to begin to address the shortcomings identified in the regional council organisation system. An organisation system considered by a CCAA vote as being within the **highest ranking strategic risk / threat category to the wellbeing and prosperity of this region and its people.**

More information on the notices, freedom of information inquiry findings, council responses and specifically the recording of the CCAA, can be found on:

<https://ccadvisoryassembly.co.uk/1-notice>

&

<https://sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk>

### **C. Public duty of care**

We take this opportunity to remind you that as public servants; you have **a responsibility first and foremost to cause no harm, to act objectively using the best evidence without discrimination, bias or pre-determination solely for the public interest and the needs of the people of Cornwall**. There is a duty of care on public authorities and their officers to consider or think about how their policies, organisation systems and decisions affect the people and the wellbeing of this region.

**Informed by our previous notices, we trust that you will NOW as a primary council consider engaging independent, non-biased and balanced advisory perspectives in-order to inform ANY AND ALL emergency declarations and supplement strategy making with transparent, rigorous and balanced approaches such as scenario planning. Similarly, we assume that Audit and governance practice, will NOW seek to assure such practices and**

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additionally treat decisions, impact assessments, risk and value management with a heightened degree of impartiality, scrutiny and rigor.

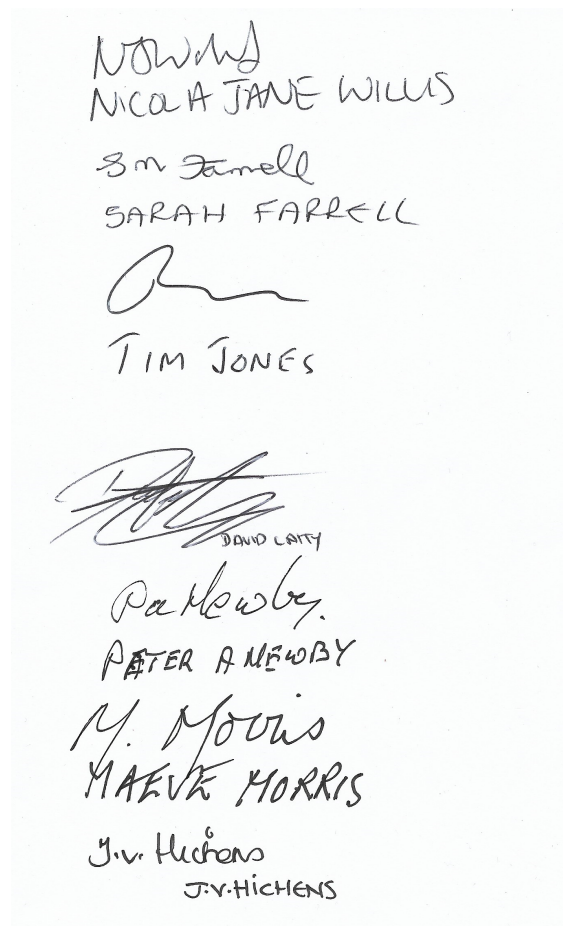
We furthermore expect that Councillors and Scrutiny Committees will be appropriately informed and supported, by your Officers, to act and observe with such a heightened degree of scrutiny.

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We affirm that our objective, as a '*concerned citizens movement*', is to inform and support the councils, their officers, councillors and partners. Our intention is to avert an imminent planning and organisation related catastrophe associated with public sector led emergency declarations, strategic planning and execution. In this case related to a regional food security & resilience emergency.

On behalf of the rapidly growing numbers of informed and concerned citizens across this region, we look forward to receiving a mature and properly considered response.

**Signed by seven concerned citizens living in Cornwall:**



Nicola Jane Willis  
Sarah Farrell  
Tim Jones  
David Laffy  
Peter A Newby  
Maeve Morris  
J.V. Hichens