

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL

See [Part D of the Council's Constitution – Council Procedure Rules](#) – for the rules on motions

Title of Motion:	To seek assurance from the Secretary of State that this Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) examination has taken account of all statutory requirements and, if approved, is legally sound.
Date of Council meeting:	19 May 2026
Proposer of Motion: (Name, and signature if hard copy submitted)	Councillor Linda Dales
Seconder of Motion: (Name, and signature if hard copy submitted)	Councillor Andy Freeman

Background/supporting information (maximum 300 words):

The One Earth Solar farm application is currently before NSIPs but there remain unanswered questions. These have been raised repeatedly during the statutory consultations and Examination Period, and include:

- Why DEFRA and the Drinking Water Inspectorate were not consulted (a policy expectation, and legal requirement)
- Were the Drinking Water Protected Area and Lincs Reservoir impacts properly assessed
- Are Drinking Water Framework Directive obligations fully complied with
- Why key technical information has not been made publicly available

This Motion asks that NSDC write to Secretary of State to:

- Confirm how Water Framework Directive Non-Deterioration duties and the 'precautionary principle' are being applied
- Clarify how risks to strategic drinking water infrastructure are being weighed
- Explain how lack of consultation with statutory bodies can be reconciled with a lawful decision

Request assurance on Drinking Water Protection:

To seek explicit confirmation that:

- Lincs Reservoirs and associated treatment infrastructure are recognised as sensitive receptors
- Risks from micro plastic pollution, BESS fire run-off and fire-fighting water contamination have been fully assessed
- The Drinking Water Protected Area designation has been given full legal and policy weight

Challenge the handling of FOI requests:

- Responses timed to miss examination deadlines
- Fire Safety information being withheld despite confirmed existence of risk assessments
- Whether this undermines procedural fairness in the NSIPs examination

A cross-agency meeting should also be requested with Environment Agency, Drinking Water Inspectorate, DEFRA, Fire and Rescue Service:

- To confirm that all statutory responsibilities have been fulfilled, identify any gaps in assessment or consultation
- Ensure public safety and environmental protection have not been subordinated to delivery timescales

Whilst this motion is specifically about the One Earth Application, there are principles here that may well affect others.

Motion to be proposed (active section):

This Motion seeks the support of this Council in writing to the Secretary of State regarding the One Earth Solar Farm application, to seek their assurance that, should their recommendation be one of approval, this decision will have been made only after fully considering all information necessary to reach a safe recommendation and that there is a clear and transparent audit trail. We ask this as there remains information outstanding from key statutory bodies.

It further asks this Council to request a cross-agency review meeting with NSDC including EA, DWI, DEFRA, Fire and Rescue Service, and DEFRA

Date and time received:

(for completion by Democratic Services)

10.05.26 - 08:41