

Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 3 December 2020, vote taken on Motion 3

Motion 3 – Proposed by Councillor Jack Abbott and seconded by Councillor Sarah Adams.

Motion Text: 'This council believes that every person delivering services on behalf of Suffolk County Council, whether they are directly or indirectly contracted, deserves to be compensated with a fair salary that, as an absolute minimum, meets the costs of everyday living.

It should be welcomed that Suffolk County Council pays almost all its own staff a Real Living Wage (RLW), which increases each year in line with rates set out by the Living Wage Foundation. However, with almost a quarter of jobs in Suffolk paying less than the RLW¹, it is clear that Suffolk County Council should look to extend this commitment to their contractors.

Research shows the RLW benefits business and benefits society² - this has already been recognised by the dozens of employers across Ipswich and Suffolk that are RLW accredited. Working with these employers, including Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk County Council can build a coalition of local organisations, from public, private and the third sector, to drive the uptake of the Living Wage in Ipswich and create a Living Wage Town³. This can then be extended to the whole of the county.

Earlier this year Suffolk County Council unanimously agreed to tackle food poverty - paying people a RLW is an important step forward in doing so. Many of Suffolk County Council's staff, employed directly and indirectly, have been on the front line throughout this pandemic. We must ensure those who have bravely served our residents and our communities are at least paid enough to meet the cost of living.

Therefore, this council resolves to:

1. Recognise Suffolk County Council's commitment to paying the Real Living Wage by seeking accreditation as a Living Wage Employer through the Living Wage Foundation;
2. Move towards a Living Wage Employer accreditation guarantee, by ensuring that that all cleaning and catering staff working in Suffolk County Council buildings are paid the Real Living Wage from April 2021;
3. Encourage existing contractors to adopt the Real Living Wage, and include a Real Living Wage clause in all new contracts from April 2022;
4. Work with Ipswich Borough Council and other partners to establish a Living Wage Town action group for Ipswich, with a view to extending this throughout the county.

1. [ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings April 2019 and April 2020](#)

2. <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/good-for-business>

3. <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/living-wage-places>

Total results	
For	20
Against	46
Abstain	

Conservative Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Mark Bee		Against	
Peter Beer		Against	
Stuart Bird		Against	
Stephen Burroughes		Against	
Louis Busuttil		Against	
Jenny Ceresa			
Chris Chambers		Against	
Andy Drummond		Against	
Mary Evans		Against	
Robert Everitt		Against	
James Finch		Against	
Jessica Fleming		Against	
Quillon Fox			
Mick Fraser		Against	
David Goldsmith		Against	
Tony Goldson		Against	
Nick Gowrley		Against	
Gary Green		Against	
Matthew Hicks		Against	
Rachel Hood		Against	
Beccy Hopfensperger		Against	
Christopher Hudson		Against	
Gordon Jones		Against	
Michael Ladd		Against	
Stuart Lawson		Against	
Guy McGregor		Against	
David Nettleton		Against	
Graham Newman		Against	
Alexander Nicoll		Against	
Colin Noble		Against	
Kay Oakes		Against	
Patricia O'Brien		Against	
Russ Rainger		Against	
James Reeder		Against	
Andrew Reid		Against	
David Ritchie		Against	
Craig Rivett		Against	
David Roach		Against	
Keith Robinson		Against	

Richard Rout		Against	
Richard Smith MVO		Against	
Karen Soons		Against	
Colin Spence		Against	
Joanna Spicer		Against	
Jamie Starling			
Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro		Against	
Paul West		Against	
Robert Whiting			
Steve Wiles		Against	

Labour Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Jack Abbott	For		
Sarah Adams	For		
Helen Armitage	For		
Kathy Bole	For		
Kim Clements	For		
Sandra Gage	For		
Peter Gardiner	For		
Mandy Gaylard	For		
Jack Owen	For		
Keith Patience	For		
Bill Quinton			

Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Trevor Beckwith	For		
Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw	For		
John Field	For		
Paula Fox	For		
Richard Kemp			
Robert Lindsay	For		
Inga Lockington	For		
Victor Lukaniuk	For		
Penny Otton	For		
Caroline Page			
Andrew Stringer	For		
David Wood	For		

Independent

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Steve Ardley		Against	
Jane Storey			