

## Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 22 May 2025, vote taken on Agenda Item 10 Motion 1 amendment.

Amendment – Proposed by Councillor Andrew Stringer and seconded by Councillor Robert Lindsay.

Motion Text:

*'This council supports robust pre-application consultation for nationally significant infrastructure projects. In Suffolk, the unchecked surge of "clean energy" and transmission projects—sprawling solar and battery arrays and vast grid networks—strains our rural communities, farmland, and delicate ecosystems, causing significant local disruption.*

*The council strongly opposes the government's amendments to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, which remove sections 42 and 49 of the Planning Act 2008, replacing statutory consultation with inadequate statutory guidance. These changes undermine fair engagement with Suffolk's residents, who face cumulative impacts from poorly coordinated energy schemes threatening the local economy, biodiversity, heritage, and quality of life.*

*The Council call on the government to urgently conclude a Land Use Framework Plan. ~~The council reiterates its opposition to the government's 2030 grid decarbonisation target, which drives this relentless pace of development, prioritising arbitrary deadlines over thoughtful planning.~~ It is the council's view that delays at pre-application arise from the volume of projects and applicants' often substandard engagement, not excessive regulation. Weakening the consultation process risks approving flawed developments that disregard Suffolk's unique environmental and social needs.*

*The council urges the government to:*

- 1. Retain sections 42 and 49 of the Planning Act 2008, or*
- 2. Enforce case-by-case statutory engagement criteria, rigorously assessing applicants' consultation quality.*

*Without these safeguards, the proposals will fuel distrust and enable harmful energy projects to proceed. Suffolk demands a planning process that balances broader goals with our residents' wellbeing, landscapes, and economy, ensuring infrastructure respects the communities it impacts.'*

Total results	
For	16
Against	38
Abstain	0

## Conservative Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Edward Back		Against	
Peter Beer		Against	
Bobby Bennett		Against	
Stuart Bird		Against	
Elaine Bryce			
Stephen Burroughes		Against	
Nadia Cenci		Against	
Jenny Ceresa			
Chris Chambers		Against	
Judy Cloke			
Andy Drummond		Against	
Philip Faircloth-Mutton		Against	
James Finch		Against	
Jessica Fleming		Against	
Mick Fraser		Against	
David Goldsmith		Against	
Georgia Hall			
Liz Harsant		Against	
Ryan Harvey			
T-J Haworth-Culf		Against	
Matthew Hicks		Against	
Rachel Hood		Against	
Beccy Hopfensperger		Against	
Michael Ladd		Against	
Stuart Lawson			
Henry Lloyd		Against	
Joe Mason		Against	
Debbie McCallum			
Patti Mulcahy			
Sam Murray		Against	
David Nettleton			
Alexander Nicoll			
Colin Noble		Against	
Kay Oakes			
James Reeder		Against	
Andrew Reid		Against	
Debbie Richards		Against	
David Roach		Against	
Keith Robinson		Against	
Richard Rout		Against	
Richard Smith MVO		Against	
Karen Soons		Against	
Heike Sowa		Against	
Joanna Spicer		Against	
Lance Stanbury		Against	
Jamie Starling			

Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro			
Paul West		Against	
Steve Wiles		Against	
Nathan Wilson		Against	

### **Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group**

<b>Councillor's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Seamus Bennett	For		
Jessie Carter	For		
Annette Dunning	For		
Simon Harley			
Richard Kemp			
Ruth Leach	For		
Ash Lever	For		
Robert Lindsay	For		
Inga Lockington	For		
Victor Lukaniuk	For		
Andy Mellen			
Penny Otton	For		
Keith Scarff	For		
Andrew Stringer	For		
Caroline Topping	For		
Keith Welham	For		

### **Labour Group**

<b>Councillor's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Rob Bridgeman	For		
Peter Byatt			
Adele Cook	For		
Elizabeth Farrow			
Sandy Martin	For		
Lucy Smith			

### **Ungrouped Independent Councillor**

<b>Councillor's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Peter Thompson			

### **Ungrouped Reform UK Councillor**

<b>Councillor's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Christopher Hudson		Against	