

Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 10 July 2025, vote taken on Motion 1.

Motion 1 – Proposed by Councillor Richard Smith MVO and seconded by Councillor Lance Stanbury.

Motion Text:

This Council expresses its huge disappointment at the announcements on the future funding of Local Government, following the conclusions of the government's Spending Review.

It notes that the government proposes no short or medium-term end to the funding problems experienced across our sector, and that the very severe implications of SEND spending remain unresolved, with any action being postponed for a further two years.

This Council deplores much of the tone of the government's announcements, especially that the maximum rise possible (without a referendum) in Council Tax will be expected. This will subject Suffolk's Council Tax payers to future rises of five per cent, probably double the prevailing rate of inflation, meaning that Council Tax will double in just thirteen years.

The Council recognises, that as a rural area, Suffolk is already feeling the strain of recent government announcements. Its businesses are struggling with new National Insurance liabilities, our agricultural community is concerned over the future of family farms due to the changes to Agricultural Property Relief, the stark issue of rural deprivation continues to go unrecognised by government, and an ageing population is seeing increased pressure placed on Adult Social Care. Further, regional infrastructure investment – such as the much-needed upgrade of Ely junction which has a benefit to cost ratio of 4.89 to 1– continues to go undelivered.

It is the view of this Council that Suffolk deserves fairer funding and the government's Spending Review does nothing to recognise this. Instead it just increases the burden on local council tax payers.

The Council asks its Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to raise the issues contained in this motion and to copy this letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.'

Total results	
For	51
Against	0
Abstain	4

Conservative Group

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

Paul West	For		
Steve Wiles	For		
Nathan Wilson	For		

Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group

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

Labour Group

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

Ungrouped Independent Councillors

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Peter Thompson	For		
David Nettleton	For		

Ungrouped Reform UK Councillors

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Christopher Hudson	For		
Martin Robinson	For		