

Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 11 December 2025, vote taken on Motion 1.

Motion – Proposed by Councillor Richard Smith MVO and seconded by Councillor Richard Rout.

Motion Text: ‘Suffolk County Council formally registers its disappointment and concern following both the government’s Autumn Budget and “fairer funding” review, which leaves Suffolk’s local government system markedly worse off.

In addition, the council considers that the government’s Autumn Budget prioritised welfare handouts over working people. Welfare spending is now projected to rise from £314.7 billion in 2024/25 to £406.2 billion in 2030/31 – a predicted increase of 29 percent. In consequence, the council registers its opposition to the lifting of the two-child benefit cap and its view that our ageing population means the county, and nation, cannot afford to have a significant proportion of the working age population economically inactive.

Moreover, the council expresses its concern about the budget’s impact on Suffolk’s hospitality and tourism sector. According to trade body UK Hospitality, ratable values have risen by as much as 76 percent for accommodation and 30 percent for pubs. This, in combination with tax relief for hospitality ending in April 2026, poses a real risk to this vital sector. Recognising that, in this sector, Suffolk is home to internationally renowned businesses, as well as many excellent smaller enterprises, this council calls on the government to give additional support to the hospitality and tourism industry.

Therefore, the council resolves to write to Suffolk’s MPs and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves MP, setting out these concerns.’

Total results	
For	32
Against	19
Abstain	3

Conservative Group

Councillor’s Name	For	Against	Abstain
Edward Back	For		
Peter Beer			
Bobby Bennett	For		
Stuart Bird	For		
Elaine Bryce	For		
Stephen Burroughes	For		
Nadia Cenci	For		
Jenny Ceresa			
Chris Chambers	For		

Judy Cloke			
Andy Drummond	For		
James Finch	For		
Jessica Fleming	For		
Mick Fraser	For		
David Goldsmith			
Georgia Hall			
Liz Harsant	For		
Ryan Harvey			
T-J Haworth-Culf			
Matthew Hicks			
Rachel Hood	For		
Beccy Hopfensperger	For		
Michael Ladd	For		
Stuart Lawson			
Henry Lloyd			
Joe Mason	For		
Debbie McCallum	For		
Patti Mulcahy			
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	For		
Joanna Spicer			
Lance Stanbury	For		
Jamie Starling			
Paul West	For		
Steve Wiles	For		
Nathan Wilson	For		

Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Seamus Bennett		Against	
Jessie Carter		Against	
Annette Dunning		Against	
Simon Harley		Against	
Richard Kemp			
Ruth Leach		Against	
Ash Lever			
Robert Lindsay		Against	
Inga Lockington		Against	

Victor Lukaniuk		Against	
Andy Mellen		Against	
Penny Otton		Against	
Keith Scarff		Against	
Andrew Stringer		Against	
Caroline Topping		Against	
Keith Welham		Against	

Labour Group

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

Reform UK Councillors

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Philip Faircloth-Mutton			Abstain
Christopher Hudson			Abstain
Martin Robinson			Abstain
Heike Sowa			

Ungrouped Independent Councillors

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