

Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 11 December 2025, vote taken on the proposed Amendment to Motion 3.

Amendment to Motion 3 – Proposed by Councillor Andrew Reid and seconded by Councillor Bobby Bennett.

Motion Text:

'The government's SEND strategy focuses on providing the best possible support for children in mainstream schools. The ~~acute~~ shortage of speech and language therapists, the varying attitudes of schools across Suffolk, the reduction in ~~Sure Start centres and other~~ early years provision, and the ~~severe~~ delays faced by parents in getting help for their children, all lead to ~~unsatisfactory variable~~ outcomes for children in Suffolk.

The council also registers its frustration at the government's delay to the SEND White Paper and failure to address the issue of increasing Dedicated Schools Grant deficits.

Therefore, this Council ~~calls on the administration~~ agrees to:

- 1) ~~Convene a~~ Continue its deliberative process within the Local Area Partnership involving schools, children, parents, ~~relevant medical and therapy~~ therapists, medical practitioners and CYP officers to identify failings and blockages in the provision of the best possible early interventions ~~corroborating its work through the SEND Improvement board~~.
- 2) ~~To produce a~~ Continue with its plan to ~~increase the~~ support ~~given to~~ parents, children and schools at the earliest possible stage, ~~so as to minimise~~ minimising the impact of Special Needs on children and their families.'

Total results	
For	31
Against	14
Abstain	3

Conservative Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Edward Back	For		
Peter Beer			
Bobby Bennett	For		
Stuart Bird	For		
Elaine Bryce			
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			
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			
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			Abstain
Jessie Carter		Against	
Annette Dunning		Against	
Simon Harley			Abstain
Richard Kemp			
Ruth Leach		Against	
Ash Lever			
Robert Lindsay		Against	
Inga Lockington		Against	
Victor Lukaniuk		Against	
Andy Mellen		Against	
Penny Otton			
Keith Scarff			Abstain
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	For		
Christopher Hudson	For		
Martin Robinson	For		
Heike Sowa			

Ungrouped Independent Councillors

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