

Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 11 December 2025, vote taken on Motion 4 as amended.

Motion – Proposed by Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton and seconded by Councillor Nadia Cenci.

Motion Text:

This Council notes that:

- 1. Rural post offices are vital to the social and economic life of Suffolk's villages and towns.
- 2. They provide essential services, such as banking, bill payments, cash access, paying in cheques, parcels, and trusted support, especially for elderly residents, those without internet, and small businesses.
- 3. Many face financial pressures from declining footfall, rising costs, and reduced government/Post Office remuneration.
- 4. Closures cause hardship, reduce access to services, and weaken town and village centres.

This Council believes that:

- 1. All Suffolk residents deserve fair access to postal and banking services.
- 2. A strong rural post office network is essential to community sustainability.
- 3. Local authorities must support infrastructure and advocate for fair funding.

This Council resolves to:

- 1. Where existing resources allow, work with the Post Office, MPs, district and borough councils, parish councils, and community groups to identify at-risk branches and explore solutions such as co-location, community ownership, business- rate relief, and volunteer-run service points.
- 2. Write to Post Office Ltd urging:
 - Sustainable funding for rural branches;
 - Fair remuneration for postmasters and sub-postmasters;
 - Continued access-to-cash services in rural Suffolk.
- 3. Establish the budgetary implications and feasibility of developing a Rural Services Impact Assessment to scrutinise proposed closures and their impact on vulnerable residents and report back to the Cabinet Member for Communities.
- 4. Promote awareness, including support for the ongoing Countryside Alliance campaign, encouraging residents to use local post offices.

This Council commits to championing Suffolk's rural post offices as essential community infrastructure.'

Total results	
For	35
Against	0
Abstain	7

Conservative Group

Edward Back For Peter Beer Bobby Bennett For Stuart Bird For Stuart Bird For Stuart Bird For Stephen Burroughes Nadia Cenci For Jenny Ceresa Chris Chambers For Judy Cloke Andy Drummond James Finch For Jessica Fleming For Mick Fraser David Goldsmith Georgia Hall Liz Harsant Ryan Harvey T-J Haworth-Culf Matthew Hicks Rachel Hood For Beccy Hopfensperger For Debbie McCallum Patti Mulcahy Alexander Nicoll For Colin Noble For Colin Noble For Colin Noble For Colin Noble For Colin Roden For Colin	Conservative Group			
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Keith Robinson For				
KICHARU KOUL FOF	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	For		
Jessie Carter			Abstain
Annette Dunning	For		
Simon Harley			Abstain
Richard Kemp			
Ruth Leach	For		
Ash Lever			
Robert Lindsay			Abstain
Inga Lockington			
Victor Lukaniuk	For		
Andy Mellen			Abstain
Penny Otton			
Keith Scarff	For		
Andrew Stringer	For		
Caroline Topping	For		
Keith Welham	For		

Labour Group

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