

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

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Edward Back	For		
Peter Beer			
Bobby Bennett	For		
Stuart Bird	For		
Elaine Bryce			
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		
Michael Ladd	For		
Stuart Lawson			
Henry Lloyd			
Joe Mason	For		
Debbie McCallum			
Patti Mulcahy			
Alexander Nicoll	For		
Colin Noble	For		
Kay Oakes			
James Reeder			
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	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			