

Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 19 March 2026, vote taken on Motion 1.

Motion 1 – Proposed by Councillor Matthew Hicks and seconded by Councillor Richard Smith MVO.

Motion Text: ‘This council has huge pride in the county of Suffolk. Over the past five years we have fought for and achieved a great deal for our county.

In particular, we recognise:

1. The council’s work supporting individuals, communities and businesses emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. The vital role Suffolk has played in providing refuge to individuals and families fleeing Putin’s illegal invasion of Ukraine. The council remains proud to fly the Ukrainian flag, alongside our own, here at Endeavour House.
3. Our opposition to solar and energy transmission projects that seek to remove our best quality agricultural land and industrialise our rural landscape.
4. The unlocking of economic growth and improved journey times from the delivery of the £143 million Gull Wing Bridge in Lowestoft and securing funding for the A12 Major Road Network scheme.
5. Saving £82 million through transformation and £4 million a year through making our buildings more efficient helping us make record investment in Adult Social Care and Children services.

Alongside so many other achievements that members across the chamber will want to mention during this debate.

Yet, the council recognises more needs to be done and reaffirms its support for securing government funding for the A11 Fiveways scheme, A12/A14 Copdock Interchange improvements, upgrades to the Haughley/Ely rail junctions, and finding a solution to the challenges in Ipswich and on the A14 when the Orwell Bridge is closed.

We thank our hardworking staff, wherever they are based, from our outgoing Chief Executive, Nicola Beach, and the Corporate Leadership Team, to all throughout the organisation for their achievements - which they continue to deliver - for our great and special county.’

Total results	
For	39
Against	8
Abstain	7

Conservative Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Edward Back	For		
Peter Beer	For		
Bobby Bennett	For		
Stuart Bird	For		
Elaine Bryce	For		
Stephen Burroughes			
Nadia Cenci	For		
Jenny Ceresa	For		
Chris Chambers	For		
Judy Cloke	For		
Andy Drummond	For		
James Finch			
Jessica Fleming			Abstain
Mick Fraser	For		
David Goldsmith	For		
Georgia Hall			
Liz Harsant	For		
Ryan Harvey			
T-J Haworth-Culf			
Matthew Hicks	For		
Rachel Hood	For		
Beccy Hopfensperger	For		
Michael Ladd			
Stuart Lawson			
Henry Lloyd	For		
Joe Mason	For		
Debbie McCallum			
Alexander Nicoll			
Colin Noble	For		
Kay Oakes	For		
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	For		
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	For		
Annette Dunning			Abstain
Simon Harley			Abstain
Richard Kemp			
Ruth Leach	For		
Ash Lever			Abstain
Robert Lindsay		Against	
Inga Lockington			Abstain
Victor Lukaniuk			
Andy Mellen			
Penny Otton			
Keith Scarff			Abstain
Andrew Stringer			Abstain
Caroline Topping			
Keith Welham	For		

Labour Group

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

Reform UK Councillors

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

Ungrouped Independent Councillors

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