

Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 21 May 2026, vote taken on Motion 2 as amended.

Motion 2 – Proposed by Councillor Julia Ewart and seconded by Councillor Tony Love.

Motion Text:

Recognising the severe congestion caused in Ipswich whenever the A14, particularly the Orwell Bridge, is not fully operational, and the cost to the entire Suffolk economy, including disruption to freight from Felixstowe:

Council notes:

- The strategic importance of the Port of Felixstowe to the Suffolk and national economy.
- The designation of the Freeport East initiative centred on Felixstowe and Harwich.
- The recurring economic and transport disruption caused by incidents, maintenance closures, or restricted operation of the Orwell Bridge.
- The need for long term resilience within Suffolk's transport, logistics and energy infrastructure.
- The increasing demands likely to arise from future freight growth, energy infrastructure expansion and wider East of England economic development.

Council further notes:

- That the currently proposed Ipswich Northern Route represents only one potential solution.
- That major strategic infrastructure decisions of this nature will shape Suffolk for generations.
- That the National Planning Policy Framework requires local authorities to support sustainable economic growth, strategic transport connectivity and resilient infrastructure planning.
- That National Highways and the Department for Transport increasingly require option appraisal, environmental assessment and long term value analysis before strategic commitments are made.

Accordingly, the Council resolves:

1. To amend the substantive motion so that Suffolk County Council does not restrict itself solely to the Ipswich Northern Route option.
2. To commission or support a comprehensive strategic feasibility assessment examining all realistic long-term Orwell crossing and freight resilience solutions, including but not limited to:
 - a) A northern bypass route.

- b) A southern or estuarial crossing.
- c) A tunnelled Orwell crossing solution, including immersed tube and cut-and-cover methodologies.
- d) Multi-modal freight resilience measures linked to Freeport East.

3. To ensure that any future infrastructure assessment fully considers:
 - o Environmental impact.
 - o Agricultural land loss.
 - o Biodiversity Net Gain obligations under the Environment Act 2021.
 - o Long term freight resilience.
 - o Port connectivity.
 - o Economic productivity.
 - o Housing and speculative development pressure.
 - o Carbon impact.
 - o National energy infrastructure requirements.
 - o Future electricity transmission demand associated with the Port of Felixstowe and Freeport East.

4. To engage with Government, National Highways, Freeport East partners, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, National Grid and neighbouring authorities to examine how future strategic transport and energy infrastructure may be aligned.

5. To recognise that strategic investment in the Felixstowe and Harwich corridor represents a nationally significant economic opportunity for the United Kingdom and must therefore be planned with sufficient imagination, ambition and future capacity.

6. To re-affirm that no option should be prematurely excluded where that option may deliver greater long term economic resilience, freight efficiency, environmental mitigation or strategic value to Suffolk and the wider national economy.

7. Under rule 8.3.6(a)(i) of the constitution, the matter be referred to Cabinet no later than September 2026.

Total results	
For	50
Against	14
Abstain	2

Conservative Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Bobby Bennett			Abstain
Elaine Bryce		Against	
Matthew Hicks			Abstain
Beccy Hopfensperger	For		
Darius Laws	For		

Joe Mason	For		
Debbie McCallum			
Harry Richardson	For		
Richard Rout	For		

Green Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Peter Aiano		Against	
Matt Bentley		Against	
Simon Dowling		Against	
Annette Dunning		Against	
Ash Lever		Against	
Robert Lindsay		Against	
Sally Mittuch		Against	
Stephen Molyneux		Against	
James Patchett	For		
Dylan Roques		Against	
Laura Smith		Against	
Andrew Stringer		Against	
Keith Welham		Against	

Labour Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Adele Cook			
Martin Cook		Against	
Colin Kreidewolf			

Liberal Democrats Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Ruth Leach	For		
Inga Lockington	For		

Reform UK Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Simon Aalders	For		
Stuart Allen	For		
Vicky Armstrong	For		
Paul Bains	For		
Mark Barber	For		
Robin Baxter-Ayling	For		
Morgan Brobyn	For		
Andrew Burton	For		
Louis Busuttil	For		
Tim Buttle	For		
Chris Cox	For		
Asa Downing	For		

Philip Faircloth-Mutton	For		
Tristan Gale	For		
Tony Gould	For		
Michael Hadwen	For		
David Hill	For		
Christopher Hudson	For		
David Hurlbut	For		
Alistair Jeffreys	For		
Tim Kent	For		
Gary Keogh	For		
Trevor Lailey	For		
Paul Littman	For		
Tony Love	For		
John Matthews	For		
Patti Mulcahy	For		
June Mummery	For		
Luke O'Brien	For		
Ryan Procter	For		
Jonathan Ramsay	For		
Richard Read			
Paul Reeder	For		
Martin Robinson	For		
Chris Smith	For		
Paul Sutton	For		
Rachael Tecklenberg	For		
Rupert Tonkin-Galvin	For		
Kerrie Turner	For		
Don Waldron	For		
Adrian Whittle	For		

Ungrouped Independent Councillors

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Julia Ewart	For		
John Nunn	For		