

Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 16 July 2026, vote taken on Motion 3.

Motion 3 – Proposed by Councillor Richard Rout and seconded by Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger.

Motion Text: “This Council notes the Section 151 Officer's statutory responsibility for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs (Local Government Act 1972, s151), and the requirement under section 4(1) of the Local Government Act 1986 for the Council to have regard to the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity (2011), which provides that publicity should be objective and evenhanded.

It further recognises that public confidence in the Council depends on financial claims being accurate and verifiable.

It therefore resolves to request that the Leader and the Head of Paid Service ensure that no publicity, within the meaning of section 6 of the Local Government Act 1986, issued by or on behalf of the Council announcing or quantifying a financial saving, achieved or planned, is issued without a commentary provided by the Section 151 Officer, or an officer nominated by the Section 151 Officer, published alongside it, addressing, so far as the Section 151 Officer considers applicable:

- A. Whether the saving is one-off or recurring;
- B. Whether it relates to the revenue budget or the capital programme;
- C. Whether the figure is gross or net of implementation costs, and whether already assumed in the approved budget or Medium-Term Financial Strategy;
- D. How the saving has been calculated and the baseline used;
- E. The financial year(s) in which it will be realised;
- F. The date and decision-making body of the decision(s) giving rise to the saving;
- G. For capital scheme savings, whether borrowing had already been committed or drawn down;
- H. Whether the saving arises from efficiency or from reducing, removing or deferring a service, project or planned investment;
- I. Any further context the Section 151 Officer considers necessary

The content of the commentary is solely a matter for the Section 151 Officer's professional judgement, and nothing in this motion directs or constrains that judgement.

This Council further resolves that where urgency genuinely prevents pre-publication commentary, the publicity shall state that Section 151 Officer commentary will follow, and the commentary shall be published as soon as possible and in any event within five working days.

This Council further resolves that the operation of this arrangement be reviewed after twelve months.

In this motion, references to the Section 151 Officer include an officer nominated by the Section 151 Officer for this purpose, acting under the Section 151 Officer's direction."

Total results	
For	21
Against	34
Abstain	2

Conservative Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Bobby Bennett	For		
Elaine Bryce	For		
Matthew Hicks	For		
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	For		
Matt Bentley	For		
Simon Dowling			
Annette Dunning	For		
Ash Lever	For		
Robert Lindsay	For		
Sally Mittuch	For		
Stephen Molyneux	For		
James Patchett			Abstain
Dylan Roques	For		
Laura Smith	For		
Andrew Stringer	For		
Keith Welham			

Labour Group

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

Liberal Democrats Group

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

Reform Uk Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Simon Aalders		Against	
Stuart Allen		Against	
Vicky Armstrong		Against	
Paul Bains			
Mark Barber		Against	
Robin Baxter-Ayling			
Morgan Brobyn		Against	
Andrew Burton		Against	
Louis Busuttil		Against	
Tim Buttle		Against	
Chris Cox		Against	
Asa Downing		Against	
Philip Faircloth-Mutton			
Tristan Gale			
Tony Gould		Against	
Michael Hadwen		Against	
David Hill		Against	
Christopher Hudson		Against	
David Hurlbut		Against	
Alistair Jeffreys		Against	
Tim Kent			
Gary Keogh		Against	
Trevor Lailey		Against	
Paul Littman		Against	
Tony Love		Against	
John Matthews			
Patti Mulcahy		Against	
June Mummery		Against	
Luke O'Brien		Against	
Ryan Procter		Against	
Jonathan Ramsay		Against	
Richard Read		Against	
Paul Reeder		Against	
Martin Robinson		Against	

Chris Smith		Against	
Paul Sutton		Against	
Rachael Tecklenberg			
Rupert Tonkin-Galvin		Against	
Kerrie Turner		Against	
Don Waldron		Against	
Adrian Whittle		Against	

Ungrouped Independent Councillors

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Julia Ewart			
John Nunn			