

Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 8 October 2026, vote taken on Motion 4.

Motion – Proposed by Councillor Martin Cook and seconded by Councillor Colin Kreidewolf.

Motion Text:

This Council:

1. Welcomes the Cabinet's decision of 17 September 2026 to commission a Pre-Strategic Outline Business Case for A14 and Ipswich transport resilience, and the clear account of the issues in the Strategic Position Paper at Appendix A.
2. Notes that the paper scores options against four objectives and counts the score for Objective 1, a viable alternative to the A14 Orwell Bridge, twice; that the Orwell Bridge is "the responsibility of National Highways" (2.2.1); and that on the paper's own table of promoters (8.4) the highest-scoring option families would be promoted by National Highways or the Government.
3. Notes that Objectives 3 and 4, network resilience for housing and jobs growth and the resilience of Ipswich's own road network, carry single weight, and that the paper records that the northern route options "score much better in terms of Objectives 3 and 4" (12.3.9).
4. Notes the paper's advice that the weighting, rationale and sensitivity "should be made explicit in the next stage, so the process remains transparent, auditable and not predetermined" (12.3.4), and the advice in the report to Cabinet that, with major maintenance on the bridge due in 2026 to 2031, "smaller tactical interventions should be prioritised" (paragraph 34).

This Council requests the Cabinet to:

- (a) bring forward, by spring 2027, a costed and timetabled package of tactical resilience measures, as paragraph 34 of the report to Cabinet advises;
- (b) as highway authority and statutory consultee, set out the option corridors identified in the Strategic Position Paper, north and south of Ipswich, in the Council's transport evidence and in its responses to the next consultations on the Babergh and Mid Suffolk, East Suffolk and Ipswich Local Plans, so that no corridor is closed off before the Strategic Outline Business Case is complete;
- (c) publish, in the next stage, the ranking of options under equal weighting and a sensitivity analysis, and an assessment of the affordability, commercial deliverability and key risks of each option alongside its strategic fit, as paragraphs 12.3.3 and 12.3.4 of Appendix A to the report to Cabinet recommend; and
- (d) report to Council on (a) to (c) with the Pre-Strategic Outline Business Case evidence and options report due by spring 2027, including the Council's response to the Babergh and Mid Suffolk consultation.

Total results	
For	2
Against	50
Abstain	6

Conservative Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Bobby Bennett			Abstain
Elaine Bryce		Against	
Matthew Hicks			Abstain
Beccy Hopfensperger			
Darius Laws			Abstain
Joe Mason			Abstain
Debbie McCallum			
Harry Richardson			Abstain
Richard Rout			Abstain

Green Group

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

Labour Group

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

Liberal Democrats Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Ruth Leach			
Inga Lockington			

Reform Uk Group

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

Ungrouped Independent Councillors

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