

## Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 17 February 2022, vote taken on Amendment to Agenda Item 7 Revenue Budget 2022-23 and Capital Programme 2022-25.

Agenda Item 7, Amendment – Proposed by Councillor Andrew Stringer and seconded by Councillor Caroline Page.

Motion Text:

Suffolk GLI's key political priorities for the budget are:

**Priority 1: Adult Social Care** – Ensuring the Adult Care Services (ACS) is as fully funded as can possibly be from the Local Authority, guaranteeing all possible funding measures are applied to ensure ACS is fully prepared during post-COVID recovery.

**Priority 2: Energy Costs** – To protect the most vulnerable from the rising energy costs, by providing a strategy to democratise green energy with significant, immediate cost effective results.

During a period of crisis in Adult Social Care, the Conservative budget proposals do not make full use of the Adult Social Care Precept. Suffolk GLI proposes to increase the precept by 1%, making full use of the 3% the Government have offered to Local Authorities.

The 1% increase will generate £3.613m in additional funds, and below outlines how Suffolk GLI propose to spend this, as well a further proposal to the budget.

Furthermore, we believe SCC have not fully prepared our residents for the rising costs of energy bills, and the effect this will have on the most vulnerable residents in Suffolk. Suffolk GLI proposes an investment in a Fuel Poverty Pilot Scheme, to help provide a solution to rising energy prices for those in hard to adapt properties.

### **Suffolk GLI Expenditure Programmes**

#### **Adult Care**

Suffolk GLI Group strongly believes it is crucial we retain & attract talent within the care services. The economy is beginning to recover, and retail/hospitality jobs vacancies are increasing. These sectors often pay more, if not equal, to the wages of a carer and therefore Suffolk is struggling to retain and attract carers.

The £3.613m of additional funding will allow the County Council to pay more to care providers. The Council will encourage care providing firms – who are struggling with staff losses - to use this money to pay their care workers more. This will allow carer's pay to be more competitive compared to retail and hospitality jobs and should help stem a loss of capacity in the care sector.

## Energy Crisis & Democratising Local Energy

Suffolk GLI Group believes it is important that we help deal with the current energy crisis, in the absence of a resilient market, by investing in the green energy supply. Our Group aims to allocate £600,000 from the Service Reserve to conduct a Fuel Poverty Pilot Scheme to help cut the energy bills of Suffolk Communities.

Energy prices are rising in the UK, due to convulsions in the gas markets, and a peak in demand worldwide. The Government's energy regulator, Ofgem, has confirmed the lifting of energy price caps which protects suppliers. This price cap change will affect twenty-two million homes nationwide and will affect the most vulnerable the worst - and prices are set to increase again in the near future.

Around 15% of Suffolk's population experience fuel poverty, and Suffolk GLI believe investing in future projects, such as SCC/community-owned green energy will help insulate families where the Government has failed to provide.

The Government has backed a Warmer Homes Fund, which attempts to lift circa 300 homes out of fuel poverty for the circa £3,000,000.00 spent by Suffolk County Council. Many homes needing the upgrades backed by the Warmer Homes Fund cannot be carried out due to type of house construction etc. Suffolk GLI Group propose £600,000.00 from the Service Reserve to conduct a Fuel Poverty Pilot Scheme.

The Pilot Scheme seeks to use a company, like "Ripple Energy", or "Low Carbon", who allows households to buy shares in renewable energy projects. Investments can be up to 100% of their household's typical energy use, then on each electricity bill the Shareholder gets a payment for their "share", which on average equates to a 25% saving on their energy bill.

A typical share averages at £1,500, so for an investment of £600,000.00 we could lift 400 families out of fuel poverty for a fifth of the cost of the Warmer Homes Fund. This proposal does not require costly retrofitting, it delivers significant savings that are predictable, and the costs of delivering this are low risk as the price for green energy reduces and capacity grows, with known maintenance costs over time.

<b>Total results</b>	
For	14
Against	46
Abstain	0

## Conservative Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Edward Back		Against	
Peter Beer		Against	
Bobby Bennett		Against	
Stuart Bird		Against	
Elaine Bryce		Against	
Stephen Burroughes		Against	
Nadia Cenci		Against	
Jenny Ceresa			
Chris Chambers		Against	
Judy Cloke		Against	
Andy Drummond		Against	
Robert Everitt		Against	
Philip Faircloth-Mutton		Against	
James Finch		Against	
Jessica Fleming		Against	
Mick Fraser		Against	
David Goldsmith		Against	
Peter Gould			
Georgia Hall			
Liz Harsant			
Ryan Harvey		Against	
T-J Haworth-Culf			
Matthew Hicks		Against	
Rachel Hood		Against	
Beccy Hopfensperger		Against	
Christopher Hudson		Against	
Michael Ladd			
Stuart Lawson		Against	
Joe Mason		Against	
Debbie McCallum			
Patti Mulcahy		Against	
Sam Murray		Against	
David Nettleton		Against	
Graham Newman		Against	
Alexander Nicoll		Against	
Colin Noble		Against	
Kay Oakes		Against	
James Reeder		Against	
Andrew Reid			
Debbie Richards		Against	
Craig Rivett		Against	
David Roach		Against	
Keith Robinson		Against	
Richard Rout		Against	
Richard Smith MVO		Against	
Karen Soons		Against	

Heike Sowa		Against	
Joanna Spicer		Against	
Lance Stanbury		Against	
Jamie Starling		Against	
Peter Thompson		Against	
Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro		Against	
Paul West		Against	
Steve Wiles		Against	
Nathan Wilson			

### **Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group**

<b>Councillor's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Jessie Carter			
Annette Dunning			
Simon Harley	For		
Richard Kemp	For		
Robert Lindsay			
Inga Lockington	For		
Victor Lukaniuk	For		
Peggy McGregor			
Andy Mellen	For		
Penny Otton	For		
Caroline Page	For		
Keith Scarff	For		
Andrew Stringer	For		
Caroline Topping	For		
Keith Welham	For		

### **Labour Group**

<b>Councillor's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Sarah Adams			
Rob Bridgeman			
Elizabeth Johnson	For		
Sandy Martin	For		
Bill Quinton	For		