

Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 17 October 2024, vote taken on Motion 1.

Motion – Proposed by Councillor Matthew Hicks and seconded by Councillor Joe Mason.

Motion Text:

‘This Council believes that Winter Fuel Payments provide a vital lifeline to Suffolk’s pensioners and registers its opposition to the Labour government’s extreme and unnecessary cuts to this support.

The Council notes with concern that over 177,000 Suffolk residents now face uncertainty over the future of their Winter Fuel Payments. Moreover, the Council recognises that the government’s deliberate withholding of impact assessments on their proposals, ahead of the Parliamentary debate on the issue, was in breach of long-standing constitutional conventions on ministerial accountability to Parliament.

The Council also recognises that as a rural county, with many properties ‘off gas grid’, its residents are heavily reliant on oil and private car transport.

Noting that Suffolk is home to an ageing population which will be disproportionately impacted by the Labour government’s decision, the Council resolves to:

- 1. Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP, asking her to a) immediately reverse this decision and b) rule out any increase to fuel duty in the upcoming autumn budget.*
- 2. Continue to oppose the cuts to Winter Fuel Payments at every opportunity.*
- 3. Register its opposition to any increase in fuel duty in the upcoming autumn budget.*
- 4. Support rural motorists and recognise the vital role private cars play both in combatting rural isolation and in our social care offer.*
- 5. Welcome the recently announced £3 million project to offer interest free loans to Suffolk residents wanting to upgrade the energy efficiency.*
- 6. Continue to oppose a ‘heat pump first’ approach to decarbonising housing stock and argue for any approach to decarbonisation to be a) technologically agnostic and*
b) avoid solutions that disproportionately disadvantage residents with older properties and or oil-fired central heating.’

Total results	
For	43
Against	10
Abstain	7

Conservative Group

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

Jamie Starling			
Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro	For		
Paul West	For		
Steve Wiles	For		
Nathan Wilson	For		

Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Seamus Bennett			Abstain
Jessie Carter			Abstain
Annette Dunning			Abstain
Simon Harley			Abstain
Richard Kemp			
Ruth Leach		Against	
Ash Lever			Abstain
Robert Lindsay		Against	
Inga Lockington	For		
Victor Lukaniuk		Against	
Andy Mellen		Against	
Penny Otton	For		
Keith Scarff	For		
Andrew Stringer			Abstain
Caroline Topping			
Keith Welham			Abstain

Labour Group

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

Ungrouped Independent Councillor

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Peter Thompson			

Ungrouped Reform UK Councillor

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Christopher Hudson	For		