

## Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 12 December 2024, vote taken on Motion 1 as amended.

Motion – Proposed by Councillor Matthew Hicks and seconded by Councillor T-J Haworth-Culf.

Motion Text: ‘Suffolk County Council places on record its opposition to the changes to Agricultural Property Relief (APR) announced by the Labour government in the Autumn Budget. The Council believes that these changes create a ‘Family Farm Tax’, which fundamentally undermines the viability of Suffolk’s farming sector and threatens our nation’s food security.

Following these changes to APR, the Council reaffirms its support for Suffolk’s meat, dairy and arable farmers. The Council notes analysis by the National Farmers Union (NFU) stating that 75 percent of working farms could be threatened by the ‘Family Farm Tax’ and that the average size of a Suffolk farm is 400 acres.

Furthermore, the Council registers its concern that the Labour government’s policy of decarbonising the electricity grid by 2030, rather than 2035 under the prior government, threatens Suffolk’s best and most versatile farmland, its rural communities and landscape.

National Grid’s Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) Register reveals that tens of thousands of acres of solar farms have been given connection offers in Suffolk. The Council notes that it is the position of the County Council that solar farms should not remove our best and most versatile land from food production.

The Council believes that the government’s 2030 target is a driver towards the unnecessary industrialisation of Suffolk’s landscape and does not allow sufficient time for the proper exploration of alternatives to schemes such as the Norwich to Tilbury Pylons and other energy projects elsewhere in the county.

The council also believes the government should provide more support to farmers for nature-friendly and regenerative farming.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- a. Write to the Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP and the Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP setting out its opposition to the policies above;
- b. Invite representatives from Suffolk NFU to meet with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council to discuss how the Council can further support local farmers.’

<b>Total results</b>	
For	56
Against	4
Abstain	1

## Conservative Group

<b>Councillor's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Edward Back	For		
Peter Beer	For		
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	For		
Liz Harsant	For		
Ryan Harvey			
T-J Haworth-Culf	For		
Matthew Hicks	For		
Rachel Hood	For		
Beccy Hopfensperger	For		
Michael Ladd	For		
Stuart Lawson			
Henry Lloyd	For		
Joe Mason	For		
Debbie McCallum	For		
Patti Mulcahy	For		
Sam Murray	For		
David Nettleton			
Alexander Nicoll	For		
Colin Noble			
Kay Oakes			
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	For		
Lance Stanbury	For		

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

**Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group**

<b>Councillor's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Seamus Bennett	For		
Jessie Carter			
Annette Dunning	For		
Simon Harley	For		
Richard Kemp			
Ruth Leach	For		
Ash Lever	For		
Robert Lindsay			Abstain
Inga Lockington	For		
Victor Lukaniuk	For		
Andy Mellen	For		
Penny Otton	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		Against	
Rob Bridgeman		Against	
Peter Byatt		Against	
Elizabeth Farrow			
Sandy Martin		Against	
Lucy Smith			

**Ungrouped Independent Councillor**

<b>Councillor's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Peter Thompson	For		

**Ungrouped Reform UK Councillor**

<b>Councillor's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Christopher Hudson	For		