

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: Member Representatives

REPORT NUMBER

H93

**TO: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
(COMMUNITY SERVICES) COMMITTEE**

DATE OF MEETING

19 August 2008

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS attached

APPENDIX A

**REPORT ON THE BABERGH EAST LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BY
MRS S P CLARKE**

APPENDIX B

REPORT ON THE HAVEN GATEWAY PARTNERSHIP BY MR A J HINTON

CONTACT: Linda Sheppard

email linda.Sheppard@babergh.gov.uk

BABERGH EAST LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

REPORT TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (COMMUNITY SERVICES) – 19 AUGUST 2008

1. Since my last report in December 2007, the Board has met four times and the next meeting is scheduled for October 2008. I am delighted to say that the last seven or so months have been extremely productive and positive for the Board.
2. Earlier in the year we were consulted on and made contributions to the final Local Area Agreement 2. Although this was undertaken in a very short time span, I feel the Board tackled the issues with energy and vigour, I am delighted to say that some of the priorities identified as most important by the Babergh East LSP have surfaced in the final documentation for the Local Area Agreement.
3. The Board has also taken an active role, and is committed to supporting Babergh District Council, in the development of the new Local Development Framework for the area. We have already been consulted twice on the Brantham Industrial Area and Affordable Housing. The Board has welcomed this involvement and made some positive responses to the Council.
4. One of the major issues facing the Board during the year was to consider the review of Strategic Partnerships undertaken by Babergh District Council. This review was somewhat overtaken by developments relating to the review of Local Governments in Suffolk, and the Board supported Babergh's proposals that no changes be made to the present arrangements for LSPs in the district because of this significant issue.
5. As the Board only covers a small geographical area (the smallest in Suffolk) it receives correspondingly lesser amounts of money from Performance Reward Grant allocations. However, we have made good and effective use of the monies allocated to us. As a result of research undertaken by a number of agencies, we identified some issues in Hadleigh. We established a multi-agency team under the auspices of a Community Safety Partnership to develop a range of activities and actions utilise £42,000 which we allocated to the group. At our last meeting in July we received an update on progress, and the range and diversity of projects is very impressive. With the LSP's funding, the Project Team have ensured that detached youth work in Hadleigh can continue for the foreseeable future. A vehicle has been secured which will provide a mobile facility for young people to enable them to seek advice and information to help them. A skate park in Hadleigh is to be improved following consultation with young people. Working with Jobcentre Plus, young people not in education, training or employment will be targeted and encouraged to participate in the Ipswich Town Team Programme.

More targeted use of the town's CCTV system to monitor and ensure rapid response to anti-social behaviour has already resulted in one conviction of an adult supplying alcohol to an under 18 young person. Finally, parenting courses are being offered to engage families in addressing some of the issues that affect young people's behaviour and future prospects.

6. Following the success and positive feedback received from the Audit Commission to our first community grants fund, the Board has agreed to a second round which will support organisations and initiatives that promote independent living amongst vulnerable individuals or offers opportunities for disadvantaged young people to participate in activities that promote their mental or physical wellbeing, or offers them practical support to enhance their quality of life. For example, we will be looking to support lunch clubs, befriending, community transport schemes, good neighbour schemes, volunteer mentoring schemes, IT projects focused upon developing independent living, sports activities for disabled adults or young people and, I am sure, many other ideas that communities themselves will put forward.
7. At our last meeting, the Board considered and approved a revised community plan which will take it through to local government reorganisation in April 2010. The Board has agreed that funding allocated to it will be directed towards projects and activities that support delivery of one or more of the LAA 2 targets, but priority will be given to those which fit the LSP's highest priorities which are:-
 - NI 91 participation of 17 year olds in education or training.
 - NI 56 obesity in primary school aged children in Year 6.
 - NI110 young people's participation in positive activities.
 - NI 123 stopping smoking.
 - NI 141 percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living.
 - NI 163 proportion of population aged 19 to 64 for males and 19 to 59 for females qualified to at least Level 2 or higher.

For NI 91 and NI 163, where appropriate the Board will have regard to the need to educate and train across all ages and for NI 110, the Board recognised the need to especially support young people who are disadvantaged.

8. In the knowledge that the Board is likely to be allocated a significant six figure sum next year as a result of the second round of Performance Reward Grant, it has already established a Project Team made up of key agencies to investigate potential projects for use of this funding. In this way when the funding is available, the Board will be ready to go and to implement projects with no delay.
9. In conclusion, as Chairman of the Board, I am delighted at the progress made by the Local Strategic Partnership over the next eight months, and I am confident that between now and when the future of LSPs is determined as part of the review of Local Government in Suffolk, much will be delivered for the benefit of the residents of the area.

PENNY CLARKE

Chairman – Babergh East LSP Board

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY SERVICES) COMMITTEE –
19 AUGUST 2008**

SIX MONTHLY REPORT ON HAVEN GATEWAY PARTNERSHIP 2007/08

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This six-monthly 'monitoring' report explains the background to the Haven Gateway Partnership (HGP). In addition, it provides a brief explanation / update of the following key areas of work:

- Haven Gateway's 'A Framework for Growth', 'Programme of Development' and 'Integrated Development Programme' (IDP)
- Proposal to incorporate all of Babergh district within the Haven Gateway area
- New Growth Points funding
- Green Infrastructure Strategy
- European 'Dryports' project

2. The Haven Gateway Partnership (HGP)

2.1 The Haven Gateway Partnership was launched in 2001 and brings together the ports of Felixstowe, Harwich, Ipswich, Mistley and their surrounding hinterlands including the regional centres of Colchester and Ipswich. The area includes the southern part of Suffolk Coastal District, the eastern part of Babergh District, Ipswich and Colchester Boroughs and Tendring District in north-east Essex. Collectively it is known as the Haven Gateway (sub region).

2.2 The distinct identity of the Haven Gateway as a sub region has been recognized and endorsed by the East of England Regional Assembly (identifying the sub region in the newly adopted East of England Plan). This also applies to the Government Office for the East of England (in supporting / promoting the HGP's activities) and to central government in awarding funding for the sub region's growth plans. The report presented to Overview and Scrutiny (Community Services) Committee on 4th December 2007 provided full details for Members on the background to, and role of, the Haven Gateway area and the Haven Gateway Partnership.

3. 'Framework for Growth', Programme of Development and IDP

3.1 The sub-region itself is one of the fastest growing areas in the Eastern Region, with a population projected to increase from 611,300 in 2001 to 684,500 in 2021. There is a key need to ensure that the planned growth is delivered sustainably, in the right places, at the right time and with adequate infrastructure.

- 3.2 These documents have been prepared to ensure proper co-ordination to deliver the above objective. Improvements to transport, environmental / green and community infrastructure are required to be enhanced to meet the demands of a growing population. The second key role of the above documents is to identify, co-ordinate and make the case for infrastructure delivery from its various different providers and, of course, from Government.
- 3.3 In order to avoid confusion, officers working with the Haven Gateway Partnership's lead officers are currently planning to combine the three documents to provide one 'catch all' document, meeting all objectives in one single information source. In the meantime, officers have started work to ensure that the Framework for Growth, Programme for Development and IDP are updated to remain fit for purpose. It will be ensured that the Council derives the maximum benefit from this work by using it to support development of its new (Local) Development Framework, particularly in respect of identifying key infrastructure requirements and developing a strategy for delivery of these.
- 3.4 Fuller details of these documents were provided for this Committee in the previous report (4 December 2007). The Framework for Growth can be viewed on www.haven-gateway.org.uk

4. Proposal to incorporate all of Babergh district within the Haven Gateway Area

- 4.1 Earlier this year a request was submitted to the HGP seeking to include the entire district within the HG area. Up until that time, only east Babergh was included, that is, the area also covered by the Babergh East Local Strategic Partnership. However, the western part of the district contains its largest town (Sudbury, together with Great Cornard) and western Babergh continues to accommodate the majority of new development within the district. A key consideration within this request was therefore to ensure that Babergh could secure and deliver HGP related funding where it was most needed and where most development was taking place.
- 4.2 The request itself was not approved by the HGP in view of the considerable uncertainty brought about by Local Government Review. However, it was recognized that when the outcomes of LGR become clearer to identify, a review of the decision would be possible. Notwithstanding this, it is of great importance that Babergh is able to pursue HG funding opportunities for projects in the western part of the district and this is exactly what the Council has sought to achieve. The issue of New Growth Points funding is dealt with as the next matter in this report and the projects include some important initiatives to benefit western Babergh.

5. New Growth Points funding

- 5.1 The previous report to Overview and Scrutiny (Community Services) Committee (4 December 2007) advised of the Haven Gateway receiving New Growth Point status and with it access to the Government New Growth Points funding pot. The HGP has been successful in drawing in around £17 million to fund projects in its area that will deliver and support growth (both economic and housing growth). Initially, this is available for the 3-year period from 2008-9 to 2010-11. Babergh hopes to access just over £1.5 million of this (the amount being proportionate to the share of HG housing growth that the district is accommodating). However, it needs to be remembered that the larger urbanized districts of Ipswich and Colchester are to accommodate the majority of new growth and have a considerable number of substantial projects that they wish to carry out as part of their contributions to the growth agenda. Babergh will need to make a convincing case to secure funding in this context.
- 5.2 The Council's proposed approach towards its access to, and use of, New Growth Points funding is dealt with in the report H77 to Strategy Committee at its meeting on 31st July 2008. This proposed an initial list of seven varied projects of differing scales, forms and themes. A dominant feature running throughout these chosen projects was that of working jointly with other partner local authorities to deliver common objectives and outcomes that will be mutually beneficial to the Haven Gateway districts and deliver the best possible value for money.

6. Green Infrastructure Strategy

- 6.1 The previous report to Overview and Scrutiny (Community Services) Committee (4 December 2007) introduced the HGP Green Infrastructure Strategy and described the initiative in detail. The HGP has now developed its Green Infrastructure Strategy, the overall objective of which is to establish a framework for the delivery of high quality green infrastructure over the next 20 years, complementing and supporting planned growth, and contributing to the quality of life by ensuring that everyone living and working in the Haven Gateway has access to a high quality, natural and historic environment.
- 6.2 This matter was dealt with in the report H80 prepared for the Council's Strategy Committee at its meeting on 31 July 2008. That report sought Babergh's endorsement of the strategy as a focus for future actions within this field. Further work needs to be done by all those involved with this strategy to prioritise the many different projects and initiatives that it contains and to focus in on prioritized actions for partners to pursue in the future. The preparation of this strategy has been achieved at low cost to the Council as the various constituent local authorities paid in towards it and the project benefited from considerable external expertise brought in by its carefully appointed steering group. This strategy is also being co-ordinated with closely related sport, leisure and recreational research being carried out to support the Council's new (Local) Development Framework, of which it will form a part.

7. European Dryports project

- 7.1 In Spring 2008 Babergh was invited to partner the HGP in making a joint European bid for €4.8 million of EU funding; €425,000 of which would be for Babergh / HGP. This will explore the potential of 2 large Babergh (and Haven Gateway) sites to play a key role in supporting Felixstowe port through the development of port-related facilities in an off-port / inland location. The project will also investigate how developing new dryports can significantly increase the capacity and efficiency of existing sea ports, while shifting traffic off the roads and on to rail or inland waterway wherever possible. Work on Dryports is expected to last for around three years.
- 7.2 I have pleasure in reporting that this bid was successful and the project, although in its infancy, is now up and running. An initial meeting with many of the European partners was attended in early June. A project start up conference for partners to attend has also been arranged in early September. The region of Västra Götaland, in Sweden, is the lead partner in Dryport. As well as the Haven Gateway and Babergh District Council, other core partners are: Port of Gothenburg, Sweden; Falköping Kommun, Sweden; Port of Zeebrugge, Belgium; Edinburgh Gateway, Scotland (Scottish Enterprise); Gemeente Emmen, the Netherlands; and the Province of Friesland, also the Netherlands.
- 7.3 A report was prepared for Political Leader's Group at its meeting on 8 July 2008. At this an interim appointment of Councillor John Hinton was made as Babergh's designated Member representative and Councillor David Wood as substitute representative for this project and this appointment is considered practical since Councillor Hinton is already Babergh's designated Member representative for the HGP, under whose auspices this latest new project falls. In due course Members will have a further chance to consider who they wish to be Babergh's longer-term representative to cover Dryport activities, at the full Council meeting arranged for 2 September 2008.
- 7.4 This project could be of great benefit to the HG area by reinforcing and promoting the role of Felixstowe port, as a major local economic driver and provider of jobs. It could also benefit Babergh greatly by exploring the role of important sites like the former British Sugar site at Sproughton in serving Felixstowe port. It could also support the Council in identifying a productive use for this site's future and help the Council's planning position / case, which is still being contested by the site's land owners.

8. Overview / Conclusion

8.1 As this report seeks to make clear, work and activity through the HGP and associated organizations (particularly East of England Development Agency and Communities and Local Government for central government) involving Babergh has increased greatly in scope over this period. So too have the benefits for Babergh. The Council's representatives have worked hard to ensure the maximum level of benefit is obtained for Babergh in relation to the investment made by the Council. This is exemplified by the government's New Growth Point funding and the recent European Dryports work funding. It is considered that HGP activities will help Babergh to deliver in partnership on four of its five current strategic plan aims, namely:

- Quality Homes that local people can afford (the sub region has delivered housing growth more successfully than some leading sub regions including even Cambridge)
- A greener and cleaner Babergh (for example, through the HG Green Infrastructure Strategy)
- A strong and sustainable Babergh economy (for example, through joint employment land review work and the European funded Dryports initiative)
- Vibrant places and strong communities (through such work as the co-ordinated Framework for Growth / Integrated Development Programme and the varied investments being secured through New Growth Points funding)

8.2 The outlook for Babergh's involvement and mutual support with the HGP looks very positive for the future and a great range of joint initiatives are being pursued. It is accordingly recommended that Babergh continues to work closely with the HGP and its constituent local authorities towards maximum benefit for the district, its environment, economy and its communities.

Cllr John Hinton
Babergh District Council's representative on the Haven Gateway Partnership Board

7 August 2008