



**Corks Lane
Hadleigh
Ipswich IP7 6SJ**

**MEDIA RELEASE
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BABERGH PUTS 'PEOPLE FIRST' IN PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Elected representatives from Babergh District Council will be taking to the streets later this month to involve residents at the very start of the process that will result in a new budget for 2004/05.

Councillors from Babergh's two Overview & Scrutiny Committees will be on the street asking residents about Babergh's services and what priorities they would like to see included in the Council's budget. They will also be explaining the position on Council Tax and asking for the public's views.

The Councillors will be seeking views in Sudbury Town Centre during the morning of Tuesday 22nd July, Lavenham on the morning of 23rd July, with Holbrook on the afternoon of that day and finally in Hadleigh on the morning of Friday 25th July.

"We are starting the service and financial planning process this year by putting local people first and asking them to set the tone and content for the debates that will follow" explained Richard Kemp, Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Stewardship).

Bryn Hurren, Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Community Services) added that "we are keen to hear local residents' views as to how Babergh is meeting their needs and how we can improve what we are doing. I would urge anyone who wants to have their say to come and see us at one of the planned events."

The results of these consultations will be discussed by both Overview & Scrutiny Committees before being considered by the Strategy Committee in September. All residents will have a chance to have their say as to Babergh's plans for 2004/05 following 'The State of the District' Debate in the autumn. ENDS

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