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## **COUNCILLORS MAKE LOCAL PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

Councillors on Babergh District Council's Local Plan Task Group have now completed their work with a series of recommendations on the Council's emerging new Local Plan. These recommendations, which cover everything from future possible housing, recreation and transport needs, will now be considered by Babergh's Strategy Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> February. This Committee has the power to accept, amend or reject any of the Task Group's recommendations.

The Local Plan, due to be finally approved towards the end of 2005, will provide the blueprint for the future development of the needs of Babergh's communities.

"The Task Group Councillors have tried to balance the various issues and often competing interests facing Sudbury, Hadleigh and the rural parts of the district. They have weighed up the various professional recommendations from the Council's Officers, external experts and from fellow Members of the Task Group" said Neil Greig, Babergh's Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development.

The Task Group is recommending to the Strategy Committee that efforts be made to secure the future development needs of Sudbury and Great Cornard, with careful consideration being given to ways of securing the Western bypass.

The same Group are recommending to the Strategy Committee that their preferred site for a possible Hadleigh superstore be located on the current Magdalen Road car park, although they were mindful of the impact on the surrounding residential areas and the need for further consultation should the Strategy Committee agree with them.

Once Babergh's Strategy Committee has debated the various Local Plan issues its recommendations will go before the 28<sup>th</sup> February meeting of the Full Council, at which all 42 Councillors will be able to have their say.

"At this stage nothing is cast in stone. It is up to the Members of the Strategy Committee to make the final recommendations to Full Council" explained Neil Greig. ENDS

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Note to editors: Babergh has produced a single side A4 briefing note as an introduction for journalists to the Local Plan process and timetable.