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**MEDIA RELEASE
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BABERGH INVESTS TO REDUCE LAND CHARGE SEARCH TIMES

Babergh District Council is investing in a scheme aimed at speeding up the time it takes for local land charge searches to be completed. The computerisation of the local land charges service will involve the transfer of 45,000 manually held records of local properties onto a computer database and should be completed by the autumn of 2003.

“Most people use our service when they or their solicitors conduct a land search as they are about to purchase a property” explained Tracy King, Babergh’s Project Officer. “The investment that Babergh is putting into the computerisation of the service will reduce the turnaround time from an average of ten working days to an anticipated one of just 3 – a major improvement!” she added.

Ray Amesbury, Babergh’s Electoral and Administrative Services Manager, added that “the £100k investment in this project will also ensure that the inevitable but small number of human errors in processing searches will be further reduced, hence improving our overall level of service to the public.”

Mr Amesbury continued “this improved service will be an excellent example of where Babergh’s investment in E-Government leads to a better and more accessible service for residents”. ENDS

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