

THE BABERGH EAST LOCAL STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY PLAN
2010- 2020

Purpose of Plan – The purpose of the Babergh East Community Plan is to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area. This will be achieved through a multi-agency approach which seeks both to address the causes and reduce the effects of rural isolation and deprivation where these impact on the communities within the area covered by the plan.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The current Babergh East Local Strategic Partnership Community Plan 2008-2010 was approved in July 2008. The intention at that time was to have an effective community plan in place up until any new local government structure for Suffolk was brought into effect in April 2010. However, as the outcome of the Local Government Review in Suffolk was still unknown as of October 2009, the partnership agreed to a comprehensive refresh and review of the Community Plan with a view to this being adopted at the April 2010 Board meeting.
- 1.2 Prior to developing this plan, the Board commissioned a community profile from which a robust evidence base and an enhanced understanding of the challenges facing the area have been developed. This has been achieved through consultation and engagement with stakeholders and an extensive analysis of local research and intelligence. It is this information that has been the primary source for identifying issues and priorities to which the partnership's attention can be focused on during the lifetime of the plan.
- 1.3 In refreshing the Community Plan, the Board has considered how the partnership can make a strong and demonstrable contribution to the delivery of Suffolk's Community Strategy 2008-2028 '*Transforming Suffolk*' and Local Area Agreement (LAA2) targets. As a result of this the Babergh East LSP Community Plan is now more closely aligned with *Transforming Suffolk*. The plan also complements Babergh District Council's ten-year Strategic Plan.
- 1.4 Western Suffolk LSP (which includes part of Babergh) is currently in the process of reviewing their Community Strategy 2006-16 '*Making life better*'. Given the broad similarities between the two LSP areas, at officer level partners have worked together to avoid duplication and to identify shared issues and priorities where a joined-up approach is required.

2. THE BABERGH EAST AREA

- 2.1 The area of the Babergh East LSP is shown on the attached map. The area covers Bildeston and Leavenheath to the west, via Hadleigh, to Pinewood on the fringes of Ipswich and Shotley in the East.

- 2.2 The population of the area covered by the LSP is about 47,000 making it the smallest LSP in Suffolk. The area is largely rural with only one small market town, Hadleigh. The rest of the area is made up of villages some of which have a range of local facilities, but many rely on either Hadleigh or Sudbury or the major towns of Ipswich and Colchester for main services. The area of the LSP borders Mid Suffolk District Council and Ipswich Borough Council to the north and Colchester Borough Council to the south.
- 2.3 The countryside of Babergh East includes parts of Constable Country, the Stour Valley and some highly attractive river valleys. It has two designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and thousands of listed buildings providing a rich architectural heritage particularly in historic towns and villages such as Hadleigh and Kersey.
- 2.4 Babergh East is relatively safe, prosperous and healthy. Strong and effective partnerships are in place to address local issues such as:
 - Affordable housing (through District, Parish Council, Homes and Communities Agency and Registered Social Landlord partnerships)
 - Concern over low level crime and disorder (through the Babergh Community Safety Partnership)
 - Maintaining the quality of the environment (through the partnerships which manages two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty)

3. THE SUFFOLK STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP & LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

- 3.1 If Babergh East LSP is to continue in its current form over the next decade, it is essential the partnership makes a strong and demonstrable contribution to the delivery of Suffolk’s Community Strategy 2008-2028, ‘*Transforming Suffolk*’, and that it is seen to do so by our stakeholders.
- 3.2 The role of district LSP’s in supporting Community Strategy priorities and Local Area Agreement targets is highlighted in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Heath Act 2007. It was therefore important, in updating the Community Plan, firstly to consider which aspects of ‘*Transforming Suffolk*’ this partnership could contribute to at a local level and secondly, to determine specific focus areas for the Babergh East area.
- 3.3 *Transforming Suffolk* is based on four overarching themes. For each theme an outcome has been identified which sets out what the SSP is seeking to achieve over the next 20 years. These are set out below:-

Theme	Outcome
A Prosperous and Vibrant Economy	Suffolk – the most innovative and diverse economy in the East of England
Learning and Skills for the Future	Suffolk – learning and skills levels in the top quartile in the country
The Greenest County	Suffolk – the county with the greatest reduction in carbon emissions
Safe, Healthy and Inclusive Communities	Suffolk – a place where everyone is safe, healthy and included, no matter who they are or where they live

3.4 The Babergh East LSP Board was extensively involved as a consultee in the formulation of the indicators and targets which made up Suffolk's second Local Area Agreement (LAA2). Of the final set agreed and signed off by GO East and Suffolk County Council, the partnership identified **six** targets that it could make a direct contribution to achieving – details on these are given in the table below. Babergh East LSP will continue as a supporting partner on these for the remainder of the agreement period.

3.5 Since June 2008 these and all other designated (i.e. statutory) LAA2 targets have been subject to an annual refresh with GO-East. 2010-11 is the last year of the agreement. As indicated in the table a step change in performance is required if all the targets are to be met and future Performance Reward Grant (PRG) monies maximised. Babergh East LSP has a significant contribution to make.

Indicator	Baseline	LAA2 Progress against Outcomes		
		Actual (latest data)	2010/11 Target	Status
NI 163: Proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2 or higher	65.3%	63.7% (2008)	72.3%	Off Target
NI 91: Participation of 17 year olds in education or training	74%	79.2% (2008/09 academic year)	84%	Off Target
NI 56: Obesity in primary school age children in Year 6	16%	15.2% (2008/09 academic year)	16.3%	On Target
NI 110: Young people's participation in positive activities	No baseline	71.4% (2008/09)	79.2%	Off Target
NI 123: Stopping Smoking	687 per 100,000	809 per 100,000 (2008/09)	813 per 100,000	On Target
NI 141: Percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living	65.65%	70.94% (2008/09)	70.0%	On Target

4. RESEARCH AND INTELLIGENCE FINDINGS

4.1 Babergh East Community Profile

- 4.1.1 To help develop a robust evidence base for the revised Community Plan and support ongoing efforts to direct LSP resources to tackling the most important issues, Babergh District Council's Policy Team has produced a Community Profile for the Babergh East area. The profile draws upon the most up-to-date information wherever possible and is largely based on a review of data already held by partner organisations and other government agencies. The profile seeks to identify specific communities and geographical areas of need within the area covered by the LSP as well as any gaps in provision of services
- 4.1.2 The profile includes information and a range of statistics grouped under five broad thematic headings: 'people and places', 'economic well-being', 'health and social well-being', 'education and lifelong learning' and 'community safety'. A summary analysis of key findings for each follows.

4.2 People and Places

- 4.2.1 The total population of Babergh at the time of the last Census in 2001 was 83,461. The estimated resident population mid-2007 shows an increase of over three thousand persons to 86,700. Approximately 47,000 of these residents live in the area covered by Babergh East LSP. The area consists of six electoral divisions (Belstead Brook; Cosford; Hadleigh; Peninsula; Samford and Stour Valley), 15 district council wards and 52 parishes.
- 4.2.2 In 2001, 96.7% of the resident population within Babergh categorised themselves as 'White: British'. As at mid-2007 this had fallen to an estimated 93.5% with Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) residents accounting for 3.5% of the population. Although the proportion of many BME groups remains lower in Babergh than other parts of Suffolk (most notably Ipswich), communities in the district are gradually becoming more diverse. For example in 2008/09 there were 290 National Insurance number registrations from non-UK nationals; 120 of these were from Poland.
- 4.2.3 At ward level population size varies from 1,749 at Leavenheath to 4,364 at Pinewood. The demography of wards is variable, the most notable differences relate to the age of residents. For example, Pinewood has a high percentage of under 5's and the most represented age ranges are 25-29 and 30-34. In contrast, the most represented age ranges in Brook are 55-59 and 60-64 and nearly 4% of the population are 85 or over.
- 4.2.4 Most wards in Babergh East have higher than average proportions of older people (65 and over) including Leavenheath, Nayland, Hadleigh North, South Cosford, Lower Brett, Alton, Mid Samford, Brook, Dodnash and Brett Vale.

4.2.5 The number of over-85s living in Babergh is predicted to rise by 136% (to 4,500 residents) between 2001 and 2021. This rate of growth in the very-elderly population is the largest anywhere in Suffolk. The profile and distribution of the increasingly elderly population in Suffolk will impact on the demand for health, social care and other local public services and has significant implications for the way these services are structured and provided.

4.3 Economic well-being

4.3.1 Babergh has a small local economy, less than half the size of the average for Britain, with below average levels of productivity. Unemployment is relatively low, but many of the jobs in Babergh are less skilled and low waged. 72.4% of workers are employed in the service sector, 17.6% in manufacturing and 5.4% in construction.

4.3.2 An increasingly critical factor to good economic performance is the growth of the 'knowledge' economy. The knowledge economy is characterised by increasing levels of innovation, technology, creativity and entrepreneurship and is driven by a more educated and skilled workforce. Suffolk has historically had a lower than average proportion of its jobs in knowledge-driven sectors. However, a review undertaken in 2008 indicated that whilst the county as a whole is catching up with other parts of the UK, knowledge driven sectors actually contracted by over 4% in Babergh between 1998 and 2004. If this pattern were to continue the area may be at risk of entering a period of long-term economic stagnation.

4.3.3 The average gross earnings for employees *working in the area* are £408.70 per week (£21,334 per year). This is below the Suffolk average (£31.60 per week less in 2009) and well below the national average (£81.50 per week less). Average gross earnings for employees *living in the area* are £489 per week; this is slightly higher than the Suffolk average but many of these residents commute outside of the district to access employment. Many young adults move out of the area altogether seeking higher education, higher paid employment and, sometimes, housing opportunities. The lack of affordable housing for young people and first time buyers is a key area of concern in Babergh. The continued loss of young people from the area could lead to skills shortages in the future and affect the local economy.

4.3.4 Analysis of key out-of-work benefits data can give a good indication of the health of the local labour market and the impact of the recession. Key out-of-work benefits consist of job seekers allowance, incapacity benefits, lone parents and others on income related benefits. 8.5% of the resident working age population in Babergh are claiming one or more key out-of-work benefit compared to 10% in Suffolk and 13.4% nationally (May, 2009). At a local level the numbers of people claiming key benefits are highest in Hadleigh North ward (240 claimants; October 2009) and Pinewood ward (220 claimants; October 2009). Pinewood ward also has a relatively high number of people claiming lone parent benefit (55 claimants; October 2009).

4.3.5 The Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) is payable to people under pensionable age who are available for and actively seeking work. Analysis of trend data can provide a good indicator of the impact of the recession. Between March 2008 and March 2009 there was a 172% increase in the number of people claiming JSA in Babergh. The claimant count in Babergh peaked in March 2009 at 1,530 (3.1% of the resident working age population – compared to 4.0% nationally). Since then it has gradually fallen month on month; in comparison the national JSA claimant rate continued to increase until September 2009. At a local level the numbers of people claiming JSA are highest in Hadleigh North ward (75 claimants; October 2009) and Pinewood ward (65 claimants; October 2009).

4.3.6 In line with the regional and national trends, more than 1 in 4 JSA claims in Babergh are from young persons aged 18-24 years (November 2009). Hadleigh North ward also registers above the Suffolk average for the percentage of 16-18 year olds 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET). This indicates that whilst unemployment is generally low, *youth unemployment*, as in many other parts of the country, is a significant issue in the Babergh East area.

4.4 Health and social well-being

4.4.1 In general the health of the population of Babergh is better than England averages. Life expectancy at birth for men and women is higher than England averages (Male: England average – 77.7 years, local average – 79.4 years; female: England average – 81.8 years, local average – 83.5 years). Premature deaths from heart disease, stroke and cancer are lower than England averages. When surveyed in autumn 2008, 76% of Babergh residents reported their general health as 'very good' or 'good'. Only 4% reported having 'bad' or 'very bad' health.

4.4.2 Measures of lifestyle choices affecting health for the population of Babergh show that approximately 1 in 5 adults smoke, 1 in 4 adults are obese (this is above the average for England) and just over 1 in 4 adults eat healthily. Across Suffolk, estimates suggest that binge drinking is most prevalent in the most deprived wards in Ipswich but also in wards with a high proportion of younger residents such as Pinewood.

4.4.3 The proportion of physically active adults has increased in recent years and at around 17.1% is the highest in England. However, this still means that 5 out of 6 adults do not meet recommended levels of physical activity. Physical activity rates among children in Babergh are higher than average at 93.3% but despite this childhood obesity has increased slightly to around 10%.

4.4.4 One other health related area of concern in Babergh is road injuries and deaths which, at 60.8 per 100,000, remain slightly higher than the England average.

4.4.5 The Babergh East area covers a relatively affluent population with higher than average life expectancy, lower than average mortality from various causes, lower than average smoking rates, and healthier lifestyle habits. However, within some of the wards – most notably Hadleigh North – there are pockets of deprivation with struggling families and younger or older people on low incomes. Health inequalities associated with deprivation are well documented including a lower life expectancy.

4.4.6 As many wards within Babergh East have a high proportion of older people, health issues relating to older people should be considered a priority. For example incidences of hip fracture among the over-65s in Babergh are higher than the England average. Fractures of the femur rates are also higher for Babergh than the Suffolk and England averages. Injury resulting from a fall is one of the leading causes of death in people aged over 75.

4.5 Education and lifelong learning

4.5.1 The South Suffolk Children's Community Cluster covers most of the primary and all of the high schools in the Babergh East LSP area. Attainment levels for this cluster at Key Stage 2 (English and Maths) and Key Stage 4 (5 or more A* to C grades at GCSE including English and Maths) are consistently higher than Suffolk and national averages.

4.5.2 There is one potential 'gap' in local provision. West Suffolk College and Colchester Sixth Form College are the top non-school destinations for young people living in Babergh – both institutions are outside the district. It is envisaged that the new South West Ipswich and South Suffolk (SWISS) Centre once completed will address this issue.

4.5.3 Data provided by Suffolk Connexions indicates that the percentage of 16-19 Year-olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in the South Suffolk cluster area has been as high as 10% during the period 2007-09. The number of young people in Babergh entering work without any structured training is also relatively high (second highest in Suffolk).

4.5.4 In general, the population of Babergh has become more qualified since 2001. However, there remain gaps in the skills and education base. Whilst Babergh performs better than the national average up to and including GCSE level it performs lower at GCE A-level, degree level and above. In 2008, 26.1% of Babergh's working population were qualified to level 4 (degree equivalent) or higher compared with 30.5% nationally. There are ambitious targets for improving the qualifications of all working age people in Suffolk. The Leitch targets for 2020 aim to have 90% of adults qualified to at least level 2 and 40% qualified to level 4 or above. Good progress is being made towards these targets through the Suffolk Local Area Agreement. However, there are still parts of the district with relatively high levels of working age people with no qualifications.

4.6 Community safety

- 4.6.1 The latest British Crime Survey revealed that Suffolk is now ranked the 9th safest county in the country, slipping from 6th in the previous year. However it remains one of the safest places to live in the country and crime fell by 4% in 2008/09. Vehicle crime, criminal damage (including arson) and burglary offences all fell by at least 6%. Violent crime levels remained the same. Suffolk Constabulary has highlighted the importance of community policing in driving down crime levels. The key areas of concern for the Babergh Community Safety Partnership (CSP) are criminal damage and violence against the person.
- 4.6.2 Criminal damage (29%) is the most significant contributor to overall recorded crime in Babergh. In the 12 months ending November 2009 there were 1190 offences (an increase of 149 on the previous 12 month period). The area covered by the Babergh East Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) is fairly typical of the district as a whole though criminal damage, including arson, accounts for a lower proportion (23%) of overall recorded crime. At a local level criminal damage offences are highest in the Sudbury South, Sudbury North and Sudbury East; these wards contributed over a third of all criminal damage offences in Babergh. Other wards that experience relatively high levels of criminal damage include Long Melford and Great Cornard North. *None of these wards fall within the Babergh East Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) area or the LSP area.*
- 4.6.3 Violence against the person (17%) is the second highest contributor to overall recorded crime in Babergh. In the 12 month period ending November 2009 there were 696 offences; a reduction of 17 on the preceding 12 month period. The area covered by the Babergh East SNT is typical of the district as a whole with violence against the person accounting for 16% of all recorded crime. The level of these offences is highest in Sudbury South and Sudbury East; these wards contributed two fifths of all violence against the person offences in Babergh. *Other wards that experience relatively high levels of these offences include Hadleigh North and Pinewood.*

4.7 Consultation and engagement

- 4.7.1 The Place Survey consultation with local residents is undertaken biennially and provides a range of insights on the local area and local public services. Residents identified 'the level of crime' and availability of 'health services' as the two *most important* factors in making the local area a good place to live. However, when asked which areas required the *most improvement* in Babergh, 'activities for teenagers', 'public transport' and 'affordable decent housing' were ranked highest.
- 4.7.2 At the annual State of the District debate held in October 2009 the local Council agreed that, based on the evidence from the Place Survey, 'Suffolk Speaks' focus groups and other stakeholder events, debt advice, protecting the vulnerable, community safety and actions to support local employment should continue as high priority areas in 2010. Housing (particularly decent affordable homes) and the environment (particularly carbon reduction and recycling) were also recognised as high priority issues for the district.

5. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES FOR BABERGH EAST

5.1 Based on the Community Profile and the various consultation findings the following priorities have been identified for Babergh East. For clarity and to ensure alignment with the Suffolk Community Strategy, the priorities have been grouped under the *Transforming Suffolk* themes.

5.2 It should be noted that whilst affordable housing is identified as a key issue for the area covered by the LSP, it has not been included in the priorities listed below. This is because the housing authority (Babergh District Council) has highlighted this as one of its key priorities and effective local partnerships are already in place.

A Prosperous and Vibrant Economy

Babergh East Priorities	How we will monitor progress (LAA2 indicators are highlighted in bold)
A reduction in youth unemployment particularly in the more isolated or income deprived areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key out of work benefits claimants aged 18-24 (Nomis) in Hadleigh and Pinewood • Percentage of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NI 117)
A reduction in the number of residents who are economically inactive and want a job	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage economically inactive (Nomis)
More skilled and higher paid jobs in the area with a higher proportion being taken up by residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average earnings of employees in the area (NI 166)
More small and medium sized enterprises situated in the LSP area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net change in VAT registrations (Nomis) • Percentage of small businesses in the area showing employment growth (NI 172)

5.2 Learning and Skills for the Future

Babergh East Priorities	How we will monitor progress (LAA2 indicators are highlighted in bold)
Increased local educational opportunities and improved attainment and skill levels among the areas children, young people and working age population particularly in the more income deprived areas	<p>Children and Young People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of 17 year-olds in education or training (NI 91) • Young people's participation in positive activities (NI 110) • Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 in the South Suffolk School Cluster (NI 73) • Achievement of 5 or more A* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths in the South Suffolk School Cluster (NI75) <p>Working age population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2 / Level 4 or higher (NI 163 / NI 165)

5.3 The Greenest County

Babergh East Priorities	How we will monitor progress (LAA2 indicators are highlighted in bold)
A smaller carbon footprint for the Babergh East area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per capita CO₂ emissions in the local authority area (NI 186)
The area's natural and historic environment is retained and enhanced for future generations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of people who travel to work by walking, cycling and public transport (LAA 2 LT 2b) • Percentage of children who travel to school sustainably

5.4 Safe, Healthy and Inclusive Communities

Babergh East Priorities	How we will monitor progress (LAA2 indicators are highlighted in bold)
Reduce crime and disorder particularly in hot spot areas (e.g. Hadleigh North) and increase public confidence in the police and local council that they are dealing with this	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of incidents of criminal damage in hotspot areas (BDC LPI 115) • Number of serious public order offences including violence in hotspot areas (BDC LPI 116)
Reduce fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and increase public confidence in the police and the local council that they are dealing with this	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions of anti-social behaviour (NI 17) • Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem (NI 41)
People of all ages are enabled to pursue a healthy and active lifestyle with improved physical activity and healthy eating and a reduction in smoking related deaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-reported measure of people's overall health and well being (NI 119) • Adult participation in sport and active recreation (NI 8) • Stopping smoking (NI 123)
Health initiatives that focus on the needs of vulnerable and older people, particularly the over-75s (e.g. Falls Prevention programmes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which older people receive the support they need to live independently at home (NI 139) • Percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living (NI 141)
A reduction in childhood obesity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obesity in primary school age children in Year 6 (NI 56)
Strong communities where individuals have a sense of belonging and everyone is valued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood (NI 2)

6. NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 The next stage of the review is to develop a detailed action plan setting out how the partnership will deliver against its priorities. Although this is a 10-year Community Plan, it is recommended that actions are mapped out over a medium-term (i.e. 3-year) period and refreshed annually.
- 6.2 As 2010/11 is the final year of Suffolk LAA2, the initial focus should be on projects and activities that support delivery of one or more of the 11 LAA2 indicators highlighted in bold in Section 5.

