

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: Head of Corporate Services

REPORT NUMBER

G98

TO: COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING

18 September 2007

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Head of Corporate Services to report on requests for the District Council to be represented on various new bodies, as detailed below.

(a) SUFFOLK SCHOOL ORGANISATION REVIEW (SOR) – LOCAL STAKEHOLDER FORUMS

Schools in Bury St Edmunds, Sudbury/Great Cornard, Stowmarket and Thurston will be in the third group to be reviewed. This will begin in the summer term 2009.

To support this process, Suffolk County Council has agreed to establish Local Stakeholder Forums that will play a key role in ensuring that the SOR process reflects the needs of local communities and helps us to understand the local perspective. The Forums will also assist with developing and testing options for future school provision in the locality.

As well as dealing with SOR issues, the local Forums will prove helpful sounding boards for some of the work the County Council is undertaking on developing a vision for the Building Schools for the Future programme. It is hoped the Forums will meet for the first time during the autumn.

Babergh is asked to nominate one representative (and one substitute) to serve on the relevant Forum.

(b) IPSWICH POLICY AREA BOARD

The Board will consist of one Member and one Officer from each of the following authorities:

Ipswich Borough Council
Suffolk Coastal District Council
Mid Suffolk District Council
Babergh District Council
Suffolk County Council

The draft Terms of Reference for the Board are:

- To provide a forum in which the five local authorities can work together to deliver the vision for the Ipswich sub-region as a Key Centre for Development and Change and Growth Point within the Haven Gateway sub-region, as set out in the (draft) East of England Plan and the Haven Gateway Framework for Growth, and as a member of the Regional Cities East network.
- To ensure that all partners and stakeholders work together to deliver the housing and employment growth targets for the Ipswich Policy Area and coordinate the delivery of the necessary infrastructure – including transport, education, power, green infrastructure, etc.

Ipswich Borough Council will chair meetings of the Group and provide the secretariat. The first meeting of the Board will be on 9 October 2007 at 4:00 pm at Ipswich Borough Council offices in Ipswich. The Board will meet at least four times a year.

Sub-groups will be established by agreement. Other organisations may be co-opted onto sub-groups or invited to attend meetings. The chair of the Group will provide reports to the Haven Gateway Partnership Board and Regional Cities East from time to time as necessary.

Babergh is asked to nominate one Member representative (and one substitute) to serve on the Board.

(c) **BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

Strategy Committee on 16 August 2007 agreed that BDC should enter into a partnership with Ipswich Borough Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council for the delivery of Building Control Services. The Partnering Agreement will contain provisions for the governance of the service through a Joint Building Control Partnership Board. The Board will be responsible for directing, co-ordinating, monitoring and reviewing the performance of the Partnering Agreement, including:

- Setting key performance indicators
- Receiving reports on performance management
- Strategic evaluation of performance
- Provision of guidance and support to the Building Control Partnership Manager
- Monitoring the business case for future development of the services
- Preparation and submission of reports to the Overview and Scrutiny (Stewardship) Committee, as required
- Making recommendations in order to improve service standards
- Approval of agreed hourly rates

The Board is likely to meet every six months.

Babergh is asked to nominate one Member (and one substitute) to serve on the Board.

(d) **SUFFOLK MEMBERS SHARED SERVICES GROUP – (PATHFINDER)**

Suffolk Leaders Pathfinder Group has agreed to the establishment of a Suffolk Members Shared Services Group. The role of this new Group will be to advise the Suffolk Leaders Group on new, or changing, shared services initiatives and related issues.

Whilst detailed terms of reference for the Group remain to be agreed, it is likely that the Group will be required to:

- Support and advise the Leaders Group on the development of county wide policies on shared services
- Seek out best practice on the provision and procurement of shared services in other authorities and apply the learning to Suffolk
- Consider opportunities for procuring shared services that reduce cost or improve services for partner authorities
- Assess the business case/service case for the procurement of a shared service
- Monitor progress on the implementation of shared service projects

Meeting frequency of the new Group has yet to be determined. It is likely the Group will need to meet on a regular cycle as this is a important and complex area of work. The group will be supported in its work by the Suffolk Integration Group (SIG) whose membership includes Corporate Directors from each Council (Mike Hammond as Babergh representative) and Councillor Passmore (MSDC) and Councillor Storey (SCC) as the Member Representatives.

In view of the likely workload of the new Group, the Suffolk Pathfinder Leaders group have requested that each Council nominates two Members and a substitute to sit on the Group. Further, in order to achieve representation across the political spectrum, the Leaders Group hope is that each Council will nominate one Member from its Majority Group and one Member from another group.

Babergh is asked to nominate two Member representatives (and one substitute) to serve on the Group.

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