

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

**FROM: Acting Head of Planning Policy &
Economic Development**

REPORT NUMBER E243

TO: STRATEGY COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING 12 January 2006

DRAFT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2006/07 – 2008/09 – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR CONSULTATION

1. **SUMMARY**

The Council has recently revised its economic development strategy to cover the period 2006/07 – 2008/09. This report seeks approval for the document to go out to consultation to local businesses and organisations. It is intended that the consultation period will last for eight weeks from 1st February until 30th March. The revised document will be resubmitted to Strategy Committee following consultation at the meeting to be held on 11th May 2006.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Committee endorses the strategy for consultation purposes.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no direct financial implications attributable to this consultation.

4. **KEY INFORMATION**

4.1 The economic development strategy is a document that sets out the economic development plans that the Council intends to undertake until 2008/09. Whilst this is no longer a statutory document, it sets out what current and new economic development priorities the Council will undertake during this period and how they relate to partner strategies at County and regional levels.

4.2 The consultation will be launched at the Babergh Business Evening on 1st February 2006 where the draft strategy will be the subject of the main presentation. Around 90 representatives of local business, public and voluntary organisations relevant to economic development will attend this event. In addition, a direct mailing of the draft strategy to local business organisations, local partners, parish and town councils and other relevant bodies will be undertaken. The consultation process will commence on Wednesday 1st February, and will last for eight weeks until Wednesday 30th March.

4.3 The results of the consultation process will be collated, and amendments to the draft strategy will be proposed in a revised strategy presented at the Strategy meeting on 11th May, where a recommendation for adoption will be made.

5. **APPENDICES**

Draft Economic Development Strategy 2006/07 – 2008/09

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO:**

None

CONTACT: [Neil Henry] **DIRECT LINE:** 01473 825868/ext 2268



Draft
Economic
Development
Programme
2006/07-
2008/09



Executive Summary

For any business, planning is essential. The same goes for Babergh as to how it can better support the business community in the years ahead.

Babergh provides a number of economic development services for its community. These services are delivered both directly and in partnership with other organisations using their expertise. We are now reviewing our economic development strategy and want YOUR views on our priorities for the three years 2006-07- 2008/09.

The Council's economic development services impact on four key areas:

1. Business development

Current and ongoing priorities

- Interest free loans for small businesses
- Industrial estate improvements
- Supporting business networking organisations, including Chambers of Commerce
- Business advice services via Enterprise Agencies and Business Link
- Information services, including newsletters, website and consultation
- Encourage investment by attraction and retention of firms in the district

New priorities

- Expanding business advice services through centres at Hadleigh and Sudbury
- Development of business networks, including industrial estate forums
- Improving the economic development pages of the Council's website

2. Place development, including infrastructure

Current and ongoing priorities

- Work with sub regional economic partnerships Suffolk Development Agency and Haven Gateway Partnership to promote the district, and enhance facilities for the community.
- Managed workspace centres for new and growing businesses at Sudbury & Hadleigh
- Enhance the economic development opportunities of Pin Mill, Chelmondiston, in partnership with the Pin Mill Task Group
- Work with the Tourism officer to enhance the tourist opportunities in the district
- Continued provision of the 'Business Workspace grant' to encourage workspace in redundant buildings, typically in rural areas
- Update industrial estate signage and consider producing new signage where appropriate
- Completion of Sudbury Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme by 2006

New priorities

- Measures to increase availability of managed workspace at existing centres, and investigating new provision
- Development and implementation of key employment sites at Hadleigh, Sudbury, Sproughton and Brantham
- Development of year round service for the Harwich-Shotley-Felixstowe foot ferry (with Haven Gateway Partnership)
- Continue to support provision of broadband and development of new technologies that may benefit rural communities
- Review the promotion of the business workspace grant scheme

3. Community economic development

Current and ongoing priorities

- Development of Community Energy Project Area Forum (CEP) in Sudbury & Great Cornard. Identification and securing of funding for community projects by CEP
- Support the Sudbury Market Town Partnership in its development
- Closely work with Western Suffolk and Babergh East Local Strategic Partnerships to deliver economic development benefits to Babergh's communities.
- Support retention of key village services through planning policies and targeted grants
- Fund appropriate external organisations to deliver community economic development projects in the district, including Suffolk Rural Partnership and Princes Trust

New priorities

- Work with Suffolk Development Agency and Haven Gateway Partnership to deliver Investing In Communities funding to communities of need in the district
- Develop Area Forum role of the Community Energy Project into Western Babergh
- Work with Babergh Communities Together partnership to strengthen the voluntary & community sector in the district, including development of social enterprise
- Support establishment of credit union points in the district

4. Skills development

Current and ongoing priorities

- Work with Learning & Skills Council and local colleges to support skills needs of local employers
- Work with local employers to identify needs and signpost to service providers and training provision
- Support Sudbury Human Resources group
- Foster links with Haven Gateway Maritime & Logistics Skills Centre
- Support development of University Campus Suffolk

New priorities

- Work to ensure employer and community links with University Campus Suffolk
- Develop Shotley Peninsula Learning Partnership, and consider replicating the model across the district
- Support provision of learning and vocational training centres in the district

The consultation will be ongoing until March 2006, and we would like to hear your views about our economic development priorities.

Have we got it right? Are there any priorities missing that you would like to see included?

Please send your views to:

Neil Henry, Economic Development Manager, Babergh District Council, Corks Lane, Hadleigh, Ipswich IP7 6SJ. E: ecodev@babergh.gov.uk; t: 01473 825868 f: 01473 825708

Introduction

The purpose of this Economic Development Programme is to set out the priority activities and expenditure by Babergh in the field of economic development in 2006/07-2008/09.

This programme does not sit in isolation, but relates to a wider family of strategies and programmes, particularly at county and regional level. Links to these documents are set out in the Programme section. The Council is a committed and active member of two sub regional economic partnerships (SREP's): Suffolk Development Agency and Haven Gateway Partnership. These organisations provide a strategic economic development context and voice for the Council, and working in these partnerships has, and will continue to deliver significant benefits to the local economy. The Council also recognises the importance of the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) as the lead economic development body for the East of England, and has made a detailed contribution to the revised Regional Economic Strategy published in Autumn 2004.

The Council will continue to work with and support a number of organisations influential to local economic development, including:

- Other local authorities
- Local Strategic Partnerships
- Business Link
- Chambers of Commerce
- Learning & Skills Council
- Schools & colleges
- Enterprise Agencies
- Voluntary & community sector

This is a time of great change in Local Government, with a number of policy initiatives that will affect the structure and services of the Council, including the regionalisation agenda, e-government, procurement, joint working arrangements and the 'Communities Plan' for significant population growth of this region. It therefore remains important to ensure that economic development not only works in partnership with outside bodies, but also is integral to the services the Council provides as a whole. Babergh places a strong focus on joint working across the Council, and the economic development function will continue to work with Planning Policy & Control, Housing, Environmental Services and Leisure & Community Services to provide further outputs and avoid duplication.

Economic context

The district, like the rest of the nation has enjoyed an extended period of economic buoyancy. Babergh has a good fundamental economic base, with low unemployment and high economic activity. However, some problems remain that need to be addressed to ensure that the economy is sustained and continues to prosper.

Business formation

- There are around 3200 VAT registered firms in the district. In recent years business formation rates in the district have fallen, and numbers of VAT deregistrations have also risen in recent years.
- Business formation rates have remained lower than both the county and regional averages since 1996
- Local entrepreneurial activity is strong, as indicated by the occupancy levels at both public and privately owned managed workspace centres in the district.

House prices

- Average house prices have increased sharply in Babergh, to over £200,000 in 2005, although there has been a slight fall from 2004 levels. House affordability is becoming a serious issue, with the average mortgage costing over eight times the average salary in Babergh, the second highest district average in Suffolk. This adds pressure to employers costs, as employees require higher wages to service mortgage debt.
- The increase in house prices is wide ranging, as it impacts on: availability of employment land, retention of existing commercial premises, and provision of vital village services, such as shops, pubs and post offices as potential residential values outstrip those of other uses.

Labour market and employment

- Unemployment in Babergh is low, at around 1.1% in November 2005, a fall of over 20% of the rate in 2000. This is below the Suffolk and regional average. At ward level, the highest rate is only 2% (Hadleigh North) with over a third of Babergh wards having an average of less than 1%. This is positive news, although many employers cite problems with recruitment in such a tight labour market.
- Over 85% of Babergh's working age population is economically active, which has grown by 10% since 2002. Again, this high level of activity is positive, but leaves less scope for releasing inactive labour into the employment market.
- Almost 30,000 people were employed in Babergh, an increase of 3.7% since 1998. Manufacturing is still an important sector, especially manufacture of automotive parts, rubber and plastic – accounting for 22% of employment. This is second only to the service sector, which accounts for a third of employment (the retail sub-sector forms almost half of this figure). Agriculture is now the second smallest sector, employing less than 1000 people.

Population

- The population of Babergh stands at 84,800 (2004 estimate), which has grown by 6% since 1993. This is in line with the Suffolk average. Babergh is a sparsely populated district at just 142 people per sq.km, compared to the Suffolk average of 178. The recent announcement of 500,000 homes in the region will have some affect on the district, but locally will have a much greater affect on towns such as Ipswich and Colchester.

Education

- Educational attainment at primary and secondary level is good within the district, and compares favourably with the County averages. In terms of school leaver (16 year old) destinations, almost three quarters enter further education and 6.8% into employment with training – both higher than the County averages.
- There remains a concern with higher education qualifications (such as degrees) as Suffolk has a low proportion of graduates compared to the region. It is hoped

that the University for Suffolk project will address this imbalance, and help retain young people in the County post university.

Deprivation

- Babergh district as a whole is not considered to be a deprived based upon typical measures such as income, housing, health, education etc. However, issues of deprivation remain within the district, particularly in Sudbury and Great Cornard. Furthermore, recent changes in the measurement of deprivation are widely felt to mask rural deprivation – particularly access to services, which is a particular problem across the district – even in more affluent areas. Closure of shops and post offices in villages has continued in recent years, thus exacerbating the deprivation and isolation issues.

Other issues

- The tourism sector in Babergh, which is especially important in rural parts of the district, has continued to suffer from the lack of global travel, due to the heightened fear of terrorism in recent years.
- There is concern from local employers over skills shortages amongst the existing workforce and those leaving education. The regional aim of increasing the knowledge economy is threatened by this issue, as is the strong manufacturing sector in the district.
- Structural problems related to the communications infrastructure (especially transport and telecoms), lack of serviced employment land and access to services continue to act as a brake on economic growth within the district.
- Uncertainty over the introduction of the Euro is also having an impact on some of the district's employers.

For a more detailed analysis of the Babergh economy visit the Suffolk Observatory:
www.suffolkobservatory.co.uk

Recent achievements

Since the publication of the last economic development programme is 2002-03, the Council has achieved the following through its own actions, and with its partners:

- **Business development**

- Support for small businesses through advice provided by our partners at IPSENTA and MENTA, Babergh business start-up and business growth loan schemes. Support also provided to Chambers of Commerce and business organisations.
- Work with Suffolk Development Agency and Invest East of England to provide an effective inward investment response service, online property database and investor development programme.
- Annual business evening to provide forum for businesses to discuss important issues with senior Council officers and members, business organisations, and with other local businesses. Event includes business ratepayers' consultation exercise.
- New industrial estate directory signs on the Chilton Estate at Sudbury and Bull Lane Industrial Estate at Acton. Updated online employment area maps on Babergh website, and update of other directory signs around the district.
- Support for new business partnerships including Collaborate to Innovate group, Sudbury retailers, Sudbury HR group and Manufacturing Excellence group.

- **Place development**

- Opening of Hadleigh Business & Learning centre in January 2004, offering 20 managed workspace units with onsite support services, a Suffolk Institute of Technology Learning Point and a 60-place day nursery under one roof.
- Continued success of South Suffolk Business Centre, with full occupancy of 24 units and support services provided to tenants.
- Provision of managed workspace grant to encourage workspace in redundant buildings, typically in rural areas.
- Commencement of the Sudbury Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme, due for completion in September 2006 to enhance and protect part of the historic town centre in Sudbury.
- Partnership working with sub-regional economic partnerships Suffolk Development Agency and Haven Gateway Partnership to implement change within and outside the district to enhance the local economy
- Commissioning of Shotley Peninsula Local Strategy to guide future key developments in that part of the district
- Updating and renewal of industrial estate signage in the district, including a new sign at the Chilton Industrial Estate in Sudbury.

- **Community economic development**

- Completion of the 'Community Energy Project' SRB6 programme in Sudbury & Great Cornard, which has levered over £2m of project funding between 2000-2003.
- Capacity building of the voluntary & community sector in Sudbury & Great Cornard, which has led to bids for funding to secure their own future.
- Inauguration of the Sudbury Communities Area Forum in April 2004, a pilot Area Forum for the Western Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership that builds upon the successful Community Energy Project partnership.

- Contribution to the development of Babergh East Local Strategic Partnership
- Support of bids to EEDA's 'Connecting Communities' broadband competition, leading to the development of a wireless broadband network on Shotley Peninsula in 2004.
- Support the development of Sudbury market town partnership, including contribution toward cost of project officer
- Significant contribution to the EEDA 'Investing In Communities' submissions by Suffolk Development Agency and Haven Gateway Partnership.
- Financial support for the best practice exemplar Monks Eleigh Community Shop project via the Business Workspace grant.
- Board level representation on the Suffolk ACRE 'Success' (Community enterprise) SRB project
- **Skills development**
- Working with local training providers and employers to foster links and develop staff training programmes
- Participation in employer-schools events including Manufacturing Skills for Success and Great Cornard Upper School problem solving week
- Support the development of the University Campus Suffolk project
- Foster links with the Haven Gateway Maritime and Logistics Skills Centre

Funding leverage

- A key role of economic development is to lever public and private funding into the district. Contribution by the Council can be matched several times over by investment by other bodies, recent examples of this include:
- Community Energy Project – over £2m funding from EEDA, Suffolk Development Agency, Suffolk County Council, Primary Care Trust since 2000
- Hadleigh Business & Learning Centre - £650,000 private developer, £75,000 Suffolk County Council, £40,000 Suffolk Development Agency, £11,500 EEDA in 2003
- Sudbury HERS - £300,000 English Heritage, £262,000 Suffolk County Council, £74,000 Sudbury Town Council, £900,000 estimated private sector contribution
- Shotley foot ferry pontoon - £150,000 Haven Gateway Partnership in 2004
- Sudbury market town activity – Healthcheck £20,000 (EEDA), project officer £25,000 (Countryside Agency), £10,000 local retailers, £10,000 Sudbury Town Council in 2003-2006
- Peninsula broadband group - £100,000 (EEDA broadband funding) in 2003
- Monks Eleigh Community Shop - £50,000 from Suffolk Development Agency and the Countryside Agency in 2003
- Shotley Peninsula Local Strategy - £20,000 from Haven Gateway Partnership
- Funding for industrial estate improvements in Sproughton - £37,500 from Suffolk Development Agency, £37,500 from private sector in 2005
- Feasibility study for graduation space in Sudbury - £10,000 Suffolk Development Agency, £5,000 Suffolk County Council

Relationship to the Babergh service priorities and other strategies

This strategy seeks to set out the economic development objectives of the Council as part of the Council's wider vision, values and service priorities. This strategy also adheres to the objectives of other important and relevant strategies at local and regional level.

- Babergh service priorities
- Community plans
- Suffolk Economic Strategy
- Regional Economic Strategy

Babergh DC service priorities

The Council's vision is as follows:

'We have a vision that Babergh should be a district where strong and inclusive communities are built on active citizenship and where all citizens have the opportunity to develop to their full potential'

From this vision, the Council has development a number of service priorities to guide its actions:

- ✓ Promote healthy living and reduce health inequalities
- ✓ Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy
- ✓ Maintain a safe, clean and sustainable environment
- ✓ Give easy, convenient access to quality services
- ✓ Raise individual and community ambitions and encourage active citizenship

Babergh DC Local Performance Indicators

The Council measures a range of Performance Indicators, some statutory (i.e. all Councils must measure them) and some are local to this Council. The economic development service currently measures five Local Performance Indicators (LPI's) on a quarterly basis as follows:

- LPI 32** Number of loans provided for redundant building conversions to office space
- LPI 33** Number of business start-up and growth loans provided
- LPI 34** Percentage occupancy of managed workspace in Sudbury
- LPI 35** Percentage occupancy of managed workspace in Hadleigh
- LPI 36** Number of local groups supported by SDA 'ECDO' officers

Community Plans

The Local Government Act 2000 set a new legal framework for the delivery of economic development activities. All Councils undertaking such activities were obliged to produce a Community Plan, that sought to address the social, environmental and economic needs of the communities they serve. These strategies are produced by *Local Strategic Partnership's (LSPs)* who are made up of representatives from a range of public service providers (e.g. local authorities, police, health etc) and other organisations.

Babergh district is covered by two Local Strategic Partnerships, and therefore has two Community Plans. The western half of the district forms part of the larger

'Western Suffolk LSP' that includes the entire districts of St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath. The eastern half of the district forms the 'Babergh East LSP'.

Western Suffolk LSP strategic priorities 2003-07

The vision of the Western Suffolk LSP is to 'make life better' for its community. It will achieve this by delivering the following strategic priorities:

- Make life safer
- Make life healthier
- Make a clean and green environment
- Make a prosperous community
- Make a learning community
- Make life active and creative
- Make an inclusive community
- Engage the community

Western Suffolk LSP are currently reviewing their Community Strategy for the period after 2007.

Babergh East LSP key issues

In its recently revised Community Plan, Babergh East LSP state the following objectives:

- The development of programmes/projects which engage with young people and promote a sense of active citizenship
- Support and advocate projects which raise opportunities for local communities to access jobs and training

Suffolk Economic Strategy

In August 2004, the Suffolk Development Agency published a review of the Suffolk Economic Strategy entitled 'Expanding Suffolk Horizons 2004-07'. The strategy identified a vision for the county's economy:

'By 2020, Suffolk will be a buoyant, competitive, and entrepreneurial economy, providing opportunities and sustaining a high quality of life in both urban and rural areas, for the benefit of all who live in the county'

To implement the vision, six cross cutting principles (CC1-6) and four strategic priorities (SP1-4) were identified:

- CC1 Improve skills and encourage learning
- CC2 Attract and retain more young people
- CC3 Add value to Suffolk' economy, particularly through increased knowledge
- CC4 Recognise and harness spatial diversity and distinctiveness
- CC5 Enhance the profile and image of Suffolk
- CC6 Increase social and economic inclusion in rural and urban areas

- SP1 Diversification, modernisation and building the knowledge economy
- SP2 Increase entrepreneurship
- SP3 Capitalise of Suffolk's high quality environment

SP4 Improve connections

The 'Programme' section of this document sets out how Babergh's economic development activities contribute to meeting these themes and priorities.

Haven Gateway Partnership vision

Haven Gateway Partnership is a sub-regional economic partnership that includes the area surrounding and influenced by the Haven ports at Felixstowe, Ipswich, Mistley and Harwich. The eastern part of Babergh district falls within this area. The partnership has evolved from an original focus on maritime economic objectives to a broader regeneration partnership that will be an integral player in the significant housing and employment growth expected in that region over the next 10-15 years.

Babergh are committed members of this partnership to ensure that economic and tourism benefits are maximised, without compromising the special environment of the eastern half of the district.

The vision of the Haven Gateway Partnership for the period to 2011 is as follows:

"To deliver a high quality environment for its residents, workers and visitors, by capitalising on its location as a key gateway, realising its potential for significant substantial growth, addressing its needs for economic regeneration, creating an additional focus for growth in hi-tech, knowledge based employment, related to the Cambridge clusters, and protecting and enhancing its high quality, attractive natural assets"

East of England Regional Economic Strategy

EEDA, the regional development agency for the East of England are the lead economic body for the region. EEDA have recently reviewed their Regional Economic Strategy (RES) with their partners, and will soon produce a new document to guide their work in the coming years. Babergh has made a detailed contribution to the new RES to ensure that the needs of the district's economy are considered, and benefit from the work programme of EEDA.

The long-term vision for the region, as set out in the draft RES is as follows:

'a leading economy, founded on our world class knowledge base and the creativity and enterprise of our people, in order to improve the quality of life of all who live and work here'.

The new strategy is based around eight goals, and under each goal sits a number of priorities. The goals are as follows:

- GOAL 1 A skills base that can support a world class economy
- GOAL 2 Growing competitiveness, productivity and entrepreneurship
- GOAL 3 Global leadership in developing and realising innovation in science, technology and research
- GOAL 4 High quality places to live and work
- GOAL 5 Social inclusion and broad participation in the regional economy
- GOAL 6 Making the most from the development of international gateways and national and regional transport corridors
- GOAL 7 A leading information society

GOAL 8 An exemplar in environmental technologies and the efficient use of resources

Local Area Agreements

The Council is working with other local authorities in the County to tackle issues of mutual interest jointly. In June 2005, an economic development and enterprise block was added to the three other existing 'blocks' of activity (Children & Young People, Safer, Stronger and Sustainable Communities and Healthier Communities and Older People).

Proposals are being developed for this block at present, but will be based upon the following three outcomes:

- Competitive, Buoyant and Entrepreneurial Economy
- Opportunities for all
- High quality living and working environment

Thematic Interventions

This economic development programme sets out the Council's plans to enhance the prosperity of our businesses and residents through its own actions, and in partnership with others. The Council's interventions are set out under the following four headings:

- Theme One - Business development
- Theme Two - Place development, including infrastructure
- Theme Three - Community economic development
- Theme Four - Skills development

Business development

The Council's approach to business development is to directly provide some services, especially to small businesses; to fund and support other partners to provide services on our behalf for small and large businesses; and to encourage businesses to work together to achieve common goals through networking.

Place development, including infrastructure

Much of the work to develop infrastructure in Babergh is undertaken by other bodies. However, the Council is committed to working with these bodies to ensure that the needs of our district are prioritised and implemented. The Council plays a direct role in terms of provision of services and funding to provide workspace for our businesses in the district. The Council's planning policies both protect existing employment areas, where appropriate and seek to open up new sites in key locations to ensure a supply of land and premises meet the needs of our businesses.

Community economic development

An important aspect of economic development is to ensure its community are able to access jobs and services wherever they are. To achieve this, the Council undertakes a number of interventions to overcome deprivation and isolation, and to develop a supportive community infrastructure plugged in to the community's needs.

Skills development

The skilling of our workforce is a key driver in the economic prosperity of our firms, particularly in the face of growing global competitiveness. Whilst the Council does not directly deliver skills, it has a role to play in ensuring appropriate provision exists within the district, and that our businesses and communities can access and influence it.

The next section, and the following tables will set out what interventions the Council intends to undertake in relation each of these themes.

THEME ONE: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Council seeks to provide direct services and to work through its partners to support the district's business community. The Council aims to support all sizes of business from start-up and early growth through to the districts largest employers.

The main areas of support offered can be categorised as follows:

- Business advisory services
- Access to finance
- Retaining businesses and inward investment
- Information – newsletter and website
- Networking organisations and forum development

Business advisory services

The Council provides advisory services to businesses through its own departments, such as economic development, planning, environmental services and building control. Advice can vary from statutory matters, such as emerging regulations from government to informal advice on planning matters, waste and recycling etc. Through its partners, the following advisory services are also available to business:

Start-up and early growth businesses can require a great deal of advice and support to help them survive and grow in the early years of trading. Local enterprise agencies IPSENTA and MENTA provide an invaluable service to these businesses by offering counselling, business plan advice, short courses and other support.

More established companies can require advice on dealing with the pressures of operating larger organisations, how to find new markets, exporting, business process, management and staff training & development, quality issues etc. Business Link provides quality support in such areas, and can help companies improve their performance and profitability.

A range of other advisory services is available to businesses from other partners such as Chamber of Commerce, EEDA, FSB, Princes Trust and local business groups.

Access to finance

Finance is an important issue to businesses of all sizes. The Council seeks to supplement the various forms of finance available on the commercial market with targeted products aimed at start-up and growing businesses through its interest free loan schemes.

Other schemes offered by our partners at Suffolk Regeneration Trust and Norfolk & Waveney Enterprise Services offer financial products to businesses having difficulty accessing traditional forms of finance. Princes Trust offers financial advice, loans and some grants to those 30 and under seeking to start a business. Larger businesses can receive advice on accessing finance from a range of sources from Business Link.

Retaining our businesses and attracting new investment

The Council recognises the importance of retaining businesses in the district as they provide the foundation for future employment and business development. This aim is supported by the Council's planning policies, regular contact with local firms, supporting of networks to aid intra-trading, and through the regional investor development service, provided by Invest East of England.

The Suffolk Development Agency operates an inward investment service to attract investment into Suffolk from the region, the UK and the world, through promotion of the County and active management of relocation enquiries.

Information

The economic development service is a source of information for local businesses on a wide range of issues. The Council is able to provide key property, funding, support and advice services to businesses free of charge. This information is provided by a variety of means – telephone, e-mail, letters, publications, meetings, an annual business evening & ratepayers consultation and through the Council website.

The Council has and will continue to improve its customer contact strategy, and in particular its electronic service delivery, thus enabling information to be provided in the most appropriate form at the most suitable time. Following the relaunch of the Babergh website in 2004, the business and community pages will continue to be developed and updated. An economic development newsletter is also being piloted which will be available in hard copy and electronically.

Networking organisations and forum development

Business benefit from connecting with other businesses in many ways, including trade, product development, purchasing, training etc. Babergh supports this through membership and funding of a number of local and county business networks including Chambers of Commerce, business associations and more informal groups. In addition, the Council intends to encourage local business forum's to form in areas where they limited networking takes place, such as industrial estates.

THEME TWO: PLACE DEVELOPMENT, including infrastructure

The Council has a role as a direct and indirect enabler of economic development in the district by:

- Working with Sub-Regional Economic Partnerships & EEDA
- Providing managed workspace for start-up and small business
- Supporting regeneration projects – Sudbury HERS, Pin Mill, vacant or underused employment sites
- Offering a business workspace grant
- Renewal and updating of industrial estate signage
- Application of positive planning policies to support business

Working with Sub-Regional Economic Partnerships and EEDA

The Council works in partnership with key agencies to deliver services to businesses. Some of these partnerships have been described in Theme One. The following partnerships relate to Babergh's role in the wider regional and sub-regional area where collective action is seeking to provide value for money services and a step change in the economic performance of the area.

- Suffolk Development Agency
- Haven Gateway Partnership
- East of England Development Agency

Suffolk Development Agency (SDA)

The SDA is a sub-regional economic partnership that provides key services on behalf of, and in partnership with Babergh to benefit the local economy:

- Suffolk Economic Strategy – the SDA devises and reviews the county economic strategy to guide action and investment in the County.
- Economic intelligence – research service to support economic development in the county, including management and development of 'Suffolk Observatory' website
- Rural partnership – development and management of rural partnership to ensure continued provision of services in rural areas, and the development of enhanced services to benefit the rural economy.
- Tourism – development and management of the Suffolk Tourism Partnership to promote the county as a tourist destination.
- Investing in Communities – development of a county programme of regeneration to benefit the most deprived areas of Suffolk, the market towns and the rural areas.

Haven Gateway Partnership

Covering south-east Suffolk and north-east Essex, the Haven Gateway Partnership is a sub-regional economic partnership with a focus on facilitating growth of the major ports at Felixstowe, Harwich and Ipswich. Wider regeneration aims to support local deprived areas and future planned housing and employment growth is also an aim of the partnership. Haven Gateway Partnership provide the following services in partnership with Babergh:

- Maritime and Logistics Skills Centre (MaLSC) - helps companies in ports, shipping and logistics within the Haven Gateway get the highest quality skills and training, and to assist recruitment into the industry. The MaLSC does not deliver any training itself but brokers training solutions for employers with colleges and other relevant training providers. It's aim is to match supply to demand with four key themes: information and advice; recruitment; education and skills; and workforce planning.
- Cruise co-ordinator – to promote the attractions of the Haven Gateway area, including Constable country and the Shotley Peninsula, to Harwich cruise companies, who can offer such excursions to passengers.
- Investing in Communities – development of a county programme of regeneration to benefit the most deprived areas of the Haven Gateway area.

East of England Development Agency (EEDA)

EEDA are the lead economic development agency for the region, and are responsible for devising and implementing the Regional Economic Strategy. As part of their regional role, EEDA deliver some services directly to businesses across the Eastern region, and some via the sub regional economic partnerships, including Suffolk Development Agency and Haven Gateway Partnership. In 2005, EEDA took over the responsibility for business support measures in the region including the Business Link service, and are currently reviewing provision in this area.

Providing managed workspace for start-up and small companies

The Council operates two managed workspace centres in partnership with Suffolk County Council – The South Suffolk Business Centre at Sudbury and the Hadleigh Business and Learning Centre. These centres offer a vital first step and early growth base to new companies to support faster growth and enable them to become fully 'commercialised'.

Both centres offer 24 small office units for small and start-up companies on favourable cost and tenure terms, with additional on-site business support by local enterprise agency IPSENTA. The Hadleigh centre has the additional benefits of an on-site day nursery and a learning centre operated by Suffolk College.

South Suffolk Business Centre

This centre, that is owned by Babergh and the County Council was opened in 1995, and extended in 1999 due its popularity in terms of lettings. This success has however, led to a slowdown in turnover which has inhibited space being available to new tenants. To address this, it is intended that from April 2007 a price premium of 10% p.a. will be added to the rent of companies who have been tenants for more than three years to increase the level of space for new tenants.

The revenue from this levy will be invested in a number of measures to support businesses, including more business counselling for local firms, a feasibility study into a larger 'graduation' centre in Sudbury, and possibly a fund to assist departing companies with relocation costs.

Hadleigh Business & Learning Centre

This centre is privately owned, and leased by Babergh and the County Council. The centre opened in 2004, and has also been a popular base for small and start-up firms. The levy described above will also apply to companies at the Hadleigh centre once they have reached three years as a centre tenant.

Supporting regeneration projects

A number of regeneration projects are underway or are being planned in the district, which have an economic development aspect. Work will be undertaken to ensure the implementation of these projects and the maximisation of benefits to the district.

In Sudbury, the three year Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS) is in the process of delivering £600,000 improvements to part of the historic centre of the town. The scheme is primarily aimed at commercial premises, including shops and offices and has restored and safeguarded a number of key properties to enhance the town centre. The scheme is due to finish in September 2006.

The supply of employment land and premises is an important tenet in the future prospects of the local economy. In Babergh there are two key new employment allocations in the main towns of Sudbury (40 acres at 'Chilton Woods') and Hadleigh (15 acres adjoining the bypass) that will provide expansion opportunities for existing Babergh companies and inward investors. Furthermore, on the edge of Ipswich, three further sites of importance to the greater Ipswich area will be available for major employment uses (at Sproughton, Copdock and Wherstead). Finally, the Council is looking at the redevelopment options of the underused ICI/Wardle Storey site at Brantham to help retain existing jobs, provide new employment opportunities, and provide new homes to regenerate an ageing site.

The Council is also investigating the potential for economic development at Pin Mill, Chelmondiston. Investment in infrastructure at this site will provide opportunities and help the long term sustainability of the site by providing revenue to manage the area.

Business workspace grant

This grant supports the Council's policies of increasing the supply of workspace in the district, where appropriate by making a contribution towards the costs of converting vacant commercial properties for new employment uses. Recent conversions include redundant farm barns and a pub outbuilding.

Industrial estate improvements

Babergh has recently supported industrial estate improvements at Farthing Road industrial estate, Sproughton by obtaining external matched funding of £37,500 and by working with companies on the estate to identify priorities and undertake improvements. In addition, the Council provides and maintains industrial estate signage where appropriate, including estates at Sproughton, Hadleigh and Acton.

Application of positive planning policies

Through its Local Plan and Development Control powers, the Council operates a supportive array of policies to help companies expand and relocate in the district. The Council is also committed to retaining existing employment sites where appropriate to safeguard employment opportunities across the district, and to relieve shortages of sites in the main towns of Hadleigh and Sudbury.

THEME THREE: COMMUNITY ECONOMIC REGENERATION

Babergh and its partners support a number of community economic regeneration schemes. These have an impact in the area of services, enterprise, transport and other areas.

Community Energy Project (CEP) Area Forum

The CEP has evolved from its original function as a catalyst for the development of the voluntary and community sector, to a formal Area Forum for the Western Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership for Western Babergh.

The CEP continues to deliver and support community economic regeneration projects in the Sudbury area. The main focus of its work is to:

- To continue to operate its established working groups that deliver schemes to help the local economy, health services and the voluntary and community sector.
- Develop community capacity by providing support to the voluntary and community sector, through funding and advice.
- Develop infrastructure for the voluntary and community sector to deliver services to local people
- Act as a voice for the local community on issues of importance
- To support the development of new schemes to develop Sudbury and Western Babergh, and to provide a voice for the community to influence these via the Local Strategic Partnership.

Town centre initiatives

The importance of market towns in the East of England is widely recognised. These centres provide vital services for many residents within the towns themselves and in surrounding villages. These services include banking, shopping, healthcare, employment, leisure and recreation. The Council is committed to working with local partnerships to protect and enhance its market towns.

The Council is an active partner of the Sudbury Market Town partnership and has provided funding for the employment of a town centre co-ordinator to deliver the key actions of its recent healthcheck.

Local Strategic Partnerships

These partnerships consist of the many public sector bodies responsible for delivering services to the local community, with additional voluntary and private sector membership. The purpose of the partnerships are to devise a Community Plan where the work of these many bodies are co-ordinated to achieve common goals. In Babergh, there are two Local Strategic Partnerships: Babergh East LSP and part of the larger Western Suffolk LSP. The role of economic development in these partnerships is key as employment and skills issues are central to the issues affecting our communities., and funding is available to help address these issues.

Enterprise initiatives

The Council will continue to support the development of social enterprises in Babergh in partnership with the 'Success' project managed by Suffolk ACR; and youth enterprise via the Princes Trust, who offer training, funding, employment opportunities and schemes for young people.

Rural initiatives

The Council is supportive of rural initiatives to enhance employment, protect rural services and support local communities in their efforts to improve their villages. The Council is a member of the Suffolk Rural Partnership who are a county wide body championing the needs of the rural economy and communities. In addition, the Council contributes to the Suffolk village shops funding scheme to help small retailers in need who provide vital services to their communities, by way of advice and small capital grants for works.

THEME FOUR: SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Although it is not a direct deliverer of skills, the role of the Council in terms of skills development for local companies is through working with funders and providers of education, by encouraging employers to engage in staff training, and in supporting education initiatives that can benefit local businesses.

Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

The LSC is responsible for funding and planning education for over-16's in England (other than universities). Its main goal is to improve young people and adults skills to make sure the workforce is of 'world class standard'. In Suffolk, a sector skills strategy has been devised to target improving skills in the key local sectors:

- Health & social care
- Engineering (including vehicle maintenance & repair and renewable energy)
- Construction
- Logistics (including transport of goods, warehousing and port sub-sectors)
- Food & drink manufacture
- Hospitality

The LSC will develop and fund a range of programmes to support skills development in these sectors. Babergh will assist this process by promoting such programmes to enhance take-up by local businesses.

University Campus Suffolk

The Council supports the development of a university campus in Suffolk, as it will underpin the development of the local economy by providing a qualified workforce, collaboration and research opportunities and help to retain and attract young people to the County. In addition to the main Ipswich campus, learning points will be created across Suffolk to provide local access for individuals and employers wishing to benefit from this important development. The Council has included supporting the university in its corporate priorities, and will work to ensure accessibility across the district.

Employer and training provider links

The Council has supported the development of two groups that seek to address common skills issues in the district, and to bring in local training providers to help close this skills gap.

The Haven Gateway Partnership has instigated a 'Maritime and Logistics Skills Centre' to broker skills training on behalf of employers and providers in the ports, shipping and logistics sector. A skills centre and academy is planned to enhance provision.

In Sudbury, a group of the larger employers in the town regularly meet to discuss common skills and recruitment issues, and seek to address these in partnership

Shotley Peninsula Learning Partnership

In 2005, a learning partnership serving the Shotley Peninsula was instigated to bring together the many stakeholders in providing education and training for the Peninsula community, including primary, secondary and private schools, Suffolk College, employers, parish councils, Suffolk County Council, Connexions and other groups. The Partnership intends to make best use of existing resources to open up facilities

for the community; and also to develop new ways of encouraging the local community to participate in learning. If this partnership is successful, the Local Strategic Partnerships may develop other learning partnerships elsewhere in the district.

THEME ONE: Business development

CURRENT AND ONGOING PRIORITIES				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Delivered by</i>	<i>Link to strategies</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Business growth and start-up loan schemes Discretionary interest free loans with repayment holiday to eligible small firms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To directly assist the growth of small businesses 	BDC IPSENTA	EEDA RES Goal 2 SDA SP2 BDC LPI 33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 loans per financial year (subject to budget)
Industrial estate improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support occupancy and businesses located on the major employment areas in the district 	BDC	EEDA RES Goal 4 SDA CC5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly update of online employment area maps
<i>Supporting business networking organisations including Chambers of Commerce etc</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance and maintain the links between businesses, and those groups that support their aspirations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suffolk, Sudbury & District and Hadleigh Chambers of Commerce Ipswich & Suffolk Small Business Association Federation of Small Business E. Of England Telematics Development Trust 	EEDA RES Goal 2 SDA SP2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide financial and/or other assistance to these organisations

THEME ONE: Business development ctd

CURRENT AND ONGOING PRIORITIES				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Delivered by</i>	<i>Link to strategies</i>	<i>Targets</i>
<i>Business advice services via Enterprise Agencies and Business Link</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide advice and guidance to support the development of new businesses, and the growth of existing businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IPSENTA MENTA Business Link 	EEDA RES Goal 2 SDA SP2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 300 counselling sessions pa by Enterprise Agencies in Babergh Work in partnership with new Business Link to ensure delivery across Babergh
<i>Information services including newsletters, website and consultation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To update businesses on important developments in the district by the Council and other bodies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To undertake an annual business evening & business ratepayers consultation
Encourage investment by attraction and retention of firms in the district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure investment is attracted and retained in the district to support the local economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC SDA East of England International 	EEDA RES Goal 2 SDA CC5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular update commercial property availability information on Suffolk Property database www.suffolk-property.com Respond to all relevant inward investment enquiries 3 new investments by 2009 Undertake regular meetings with businesses in the district and business groups

THEME ONE: Business development ctd

NEW PRIORITIES				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Delivered by</i>	<i>Link to strategies</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Expanding business advice services through centres at Hadleigh and Sudbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To take advantage of business counselling presence at existing business centres for new and growing small companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IPSENTA 	EEDA RES Goal 2 SDA SP2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 additional sessions by 2007/08 (baseline: 270 sessions by IPSENTA in 2005)
Development of business networks including industrial estate forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to increase local business networking by facilitation of new groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC IPSENTA Local companies 	EEDA RES Goal 2 SDA SP2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instigate Hadleigh Lady Lady estate forum by 2006/07 Investigate requirement for further forums by 2008/09
<i>Improving the economic development pages of the Council's website</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To offer electronic service delivery of economic development services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-enable all possible BDC economic development services by March 2007

THEME TWO: Place development including infrastructure

CURRENT AND ONGOING PRIORITIES				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Delivered by</i>	<i>Link to strategies</i>	<i>Targets</i>
<i>Work with sub-regional economic partnerships</i> Suffolk Development Agency and Haven Gateway Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote the district and enhance facilities for the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDA HGP 	EEDA RES – all goals SDA all priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement by members and officers at Board and sub-group meetings
<i>Managed workspace centres for new and growing businesses at Sudbury and Hadleigh</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage new and early stage growth of businesses by provision of workspace and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC Suffolk CC IPSENTA 	EEDA RES Goal 2 SDA SP2 BDC LPI 34 BDC LPI 35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% occupancy at SSBC 80% occupancy at HBLC in 2006/07, 90% from 2007/08
<i>Enhance the economic development opportunities at Pin Mill, Chelmondiston</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage the sustainable development of business opportunities at Pin Mill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pin Mill Task Group 	EEDA RES Goal 4 SDA SP2, SP3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devise business plan for Pin Mill in 2006/07 Implement improvements by 2008/09
<i>Work with the Babergh tourism officer</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance the tourist opportunities in the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC 	EEDA RES Goal 4 SDA SP3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify opportunities for joint working where appropriate
Provision of the Business Workspace Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage workspace in redundant buildings (typically in rural areas) To support BDC Planning Policies to retain employment sites, encourage diversification and support employment in rural areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC 	EEDA RES Goal 4 SDA SP1 and SP2 BDC LPI 32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 schemes delivered 2005-2008 (subject to budget) Review target after 2008

THEME TWO: Place development including infrastructure **ctd..**

CURRENT AND ONGOING PRIORITIES				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Delivered by</i>	<i>Link to strategies</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Update industrial estate signage and consider producing new signage where appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve image of estates, and traffic management around estates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC Private sector 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual update of existing estate signage
Completion of Sudbury HERS by 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the commercial premises and enhance the historic environment in the defined conservation area in Sudbury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC Suffolk County Council 	EEDA RES Goal 4 SDA SP3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full commitment of HERS budget by September 2006 Full spend by March 2008

THEME TWO: Place development including infrastructure **ctd..**

NEW PRIORITIES				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Delivered by</i>	<i>Link to strategies</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Measures to increase availability of managed workspace at existing centres, and investigating new provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure successful growth of exiting tenants, and supply of space for new start-ups To test the viability of further managed workspace and graduation space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC Suffolk CC 	EEDA RES Goal 2 SDA SP2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review tenancy agreements at Hadleigh and Sudbury centres in 2006 Action the outcomes of the Sudbury graduation space feasibility study in 2006/07
Development and implementation of key employment sites at Hadleigh, Sudbury, Sproughton and Brantham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure the supply of quality employment sites to foster business growth in the district, and for the sub-region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC Developers SDA HGP Other public agencies 	EEDA RES Goal 4 SDA SP1 Babergh East LSP Community Strategy, projects 2 and 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with landowners and developers to ensure development of allocated sites Bid for public funding where appropriate to contribute towards cost of feasibility and development
Development of year round service for the Harwich-Shotley-Felixstowe foot ferry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of key infrastructure to support access to jobs and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC Haven Gateway Partnership 	EEDA RES Goal 6 SDA SP4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Haven Gateway Partnership to investigate feasibility of a year round service Work with partners to fund require improvements and operation of service

THEME TWO: Place development including infrastructure **ctd..**

NEW PRIORITIES				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Delivered by</i>	<i>Link to strategies</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Continue to support broadband and the development of new technologies that may benefit rural communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain rural employment opportunities and assist service delivery in rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC Public and private sector partners 	EEDA RES Goal 7 SDA SP4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to ensure maximum coverage of broadband across the district
Review the promotion of the business workspace grant scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maximise the take-up of this grant across the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current marketing in 2006/07 Relaunch scheme in 2007/08

THEME THREE: Community Economic Development

CURRENT AND ONGOING PRIORITIES				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Delivered by</i>	<i>Link to strategies</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Development of the Community Energy Project (CEP) Area Forum in Sudbury & Great Cornard. Identification and securing of funding for community projects by CEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support the development of the local community infrastructure, and to continue to enhance the social and economic development of the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC Community Energy Project Western Suffolk LSP 	EEDA RES Goal 5 SDA CC6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify potential sources of funding for community projects To continue to develop the work of the 'strand' groups
Support the Sudbury Market Town Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect and strengthen the market town and its hinterland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sudbury Market Town Partnership 	EEDA RES Goal 4 SDA CC4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist the partnership in identifying funding, and to deliver improvements according to its Action Plan
Closely work with Western Suffolk LSP and Babergh East LSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To deliver economic development benefits to the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC Western Suffolk LSP Babergh East LSP 	EEDA RES Goal 5 SDA CC6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To participate in both of these partnerships, and to deliver projects of shared benefit

THEME THREE: Community Economic Development ctd..

CURRENT AND ONGOING PRIORITIES				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Delivered by</i>	<i>Link to strategies</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Support retention of key village services through planning policies and targeted grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To sustain services that contribute to the vitality of Babergh district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC Suffolk CC Suffolk village shops partnership 	EEDA RES Goal 5 SDA CC4, CC6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support 4 village shops in Babergh per annum with funding and advice (subject to continuation of Suffolk scheme) To protect village services through the planning process
Fund appropriate external organisations to deliver community economic projects in the district including Suffolk Rural Partnership and Prince's Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To offer a community development resource for local groups and organisations To support young people and disadvantaged groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suffolk Rural Partnership Prince's Trust (Suffolk) 	EEDA RES Goal 5 SDA CC6 BDC LPI 36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 community groups in Babergh assisted per annum by Suffolk Rural Partnership 'ECDO's'

THEME THREE: Community Economic Development ctd..

NEW PRIORITIES				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Delivered by</i>	<i>Link to strategies</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Work with Suffolk Development Agency and Haven Gateway Partnership to deliver Investing in Communities funding to communities of need in the district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To secure funding to tackle social deprivation in communities of need in the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC SDA HGP 	EEDA RES Goal 5 SDA CC6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with both partnerships and delivery bodies to ensure delivery of funded projects in the district
Develop Area Forum role of the Community Energy Project into Western Suffolk LSP area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To represent the views of the communities of Western Babergh at the Western Suffolk LSP To strengthen the voluntary and community sector in Western Babergh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Energy Project Babergh Communities Together 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding to 7 community groups in Western Suffolk To undertake a regular consultative dialogue between Western Babergh parishes and CEP
Work with Babergh Communities Together partnership the strengthen the voluntary and community sector across the district, including development of social enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To strengthen the voluntary and community sector in the district To support the development of social enterprises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babergh Communities Together partnership 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To participate in Babergh Communities Together To work with partners to increase the number and remit of social enterprises operating in the district

THEME THREE: Community Economic Development ctd..

NEW PRIORITIES				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Delivered by</i>	<i>Link to strategies</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Support the establishment of credit union points in the district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance access to financial services for communities of need in the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Energy Project Ipswich & Suffolk Credit Union 	EEDA RES Goal 5 SDA CC6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify potential locations, and to promote the services and membership of credit unions

THEME FOUR: Skills Development

CURRENT AND ONGOING PRIORITIES				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Delivered by</i>	<i>Link to strategies</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Work with Learning & Skills Council to support skills needs of local employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the local workforce has the required skills to sustain local business growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning & Skills Council 	EEDA RES Goal 1 SDA CC1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To contribute to Suffolk sector skills strategy review To inform the LSC of the needs of local employers
Work with local employers to identify needs and signpost to service providers and training provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable local employers to access and influence local training provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC Local employers 	EEDA RES Goal 1 SDA CC1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify appropriate method of engagement, and to ensure dialogue
Support Sudbury HR group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage major employers to meet and share best practice, and to identify common solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Energy Project 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the group meets at least four times per annum
Foster links with Haven Gateway 'Maritime and Logistics Skills Centre (MaLSC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance the skills of the workforce for companies within target sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC 	EEDA RES Goal 1 SDA CC1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist MaLSC in working with companies in Babergh district
Support the development of University Campus Suffolk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the project is delivered, and that benefits are accrued to local businesses and residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC University Campus Suffolk 	EEDA RES Goals 1 & 3 SDA SP1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To represent the Council on appropriate working groups To promote and publicise the development within the district

THEME FOUR: Skills Development ctd...

NEW PRIORITIES				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Delivered by</i>	<i>Link to strategies</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Work to ensure employer and community links with University Campus Suffolk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that a mechanism for interaction with local people and businesses is established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC University Campus Suffolk 	EEDA RES Goals 1 & 3 SDA SP1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with the University to establish an appropriate forum by 2006/07.
Develop Shotley Peninsula Learning Partnership and consider replicating the model across the district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To bring together learning providers in order to offer services to the local population in addition to current provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC Babergh East LSP Haven Gateway Partnership 	EEDA RES Goal 1 SDA CC1, CC6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop projects in 2006/07 for implementation by 2008/09 Review potential for more Learning Partnership by 2007/08
Support provision of learning and vocational centres in the district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support the aims of the Learning & Skills Council by promoting appropriate locations within Babergh district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC Learning & Skills Council 	EEDA RES Goal 1 SDA CC1, CC6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with the LSC and other partners to identify funding for centres in 2006/07 To develop centres if funding is available by 2008/09