

## BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

URGENT ACTION - NO SPECIFIC POWERS

### ACTION FOR WHICH CHIEF EXECUTIVE HAS DELEGATED POWERS SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION WITH CHAIRMAN

SERIAL NO.

**SUBJECT MATTER: PARTICIPATION OF BABERGH IN EU INTERREG IVB NORTH SEA  
REGION PROGRAMME 'DRYPORT' BID PARTNERSHIP**

COMMITTEE TO WHICH MATTER RELATES: **STRATEGY**

REASON FOR ACTION BEING TAKEN OUT OF MEETING:

The Council has been asked at short notice to write a Letter of Intent in support of a bid to this programme. This letter must be submitted by 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

BACKGROUND:

The Council is seeking to identify ways in which it can promote the redevelopment of its key employment sites at Sproughton (former British Sugar site) and Brantham (Wardle Storey/ICI). These two sites are identified in Babergh's Local Plan as key employment sites. An opportunity has arisen via the Haven Gateway Partnership to participate in an EU funded bid to investigate the feasibility of a dryport (off port and customs cleared storage and distribution using non-road borne transport where possible) to support activity at the Port of Felixstowe. The product of the project will be a feasibility study that will identify whether and how a Dryport can be implemented. The project will examine issues such as physical viability and planning, commercial feasibility and environmental impact assessment. Participation in the programme will leverage significant UK and EU matched funding, and also augment the existing planning policy work that the Council will be undertaking in relation to these sites.

At this stage a legally binding letter of intent is being sought in support of the bid, which will be sent to the lead partner (regional government of Gothenburg) to submit with the bid documentation. Other partners include Edinburgh (Rosyth) and ports in Belgium, Holland and Germany. The outcome to the bid will be known by June.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (IF ANY):

The Letter of Intent will commit the Council to providing €75,000 (Euro) officer time from existing staff resources over 3 years 2008/09-2010/11. The time of a range of officers (e.g. planning policy, development control, economic development) will be recorded using an EU approved method to ensure that this figure is achieved. Contributions from Haven Gateway Partnership and EU is estimated to be in excess of €700,000 (Euro) which is a very good leverage of almost 10:1.

ACTION AUTHORISED:

To authorise the Corporate Director to sign a Letter of Intent committing Babergh to providing €75,000 (Euro) officer time over 3 years as formal notice of the Council's participation in the bid.