

The Council's Role and Priorities

The Council's Role

The Council's role is to:

- Work with the people of Babergh and partner organisations to maintain a shared vision for the future of the area
- Help to deliver this shared vision through;
 - Responsible community leadership and the effective use of its influence
 - Supporting the appropriate social, economic and environmental conditions needed for delivery
 - Encouraging the development of, and contributing effectively to, partnerships
 - Providing, procuring and supporting efficient, flexible, accessible public services of good quality
- Make decisions that fairly reflect and balance the differing needs of individuals and communities in the area.

Council pledges

We will:

- Listen to and seek the views of individuals and communities and recognize their differing needs.
- Consider these needs in the formulation of our policies and the way we plan and deliver services.
- Treat everyone with fairness, dignity and respect.
- Make our decisions openly and be accountable for them.
- Deal responsibly with the public money and resources entrusted to the Council in order to fulfill its role.

Strategic Plan

The Council has approved a ten-year Strategic Plan, which sets out a clear direction for the Council and identifies our priorities. Those priorities are:

- Providing quality homes that local people can afford
- A greener and cleaner Babergh
- A safer and healthier Babergh
- A strong and sustainable Babergh economy
- Ensuring Babergh has vibrant places and strong communities

The Council has set out how it intends to move towards achieving these priorities in its Medium Term Plans. These cover the three years up to April

2011 and describe in more detail the range of outcomes and targets which need to be achieved over the next three years to make effective progress.

There is a One Year Delivery Plan to provide precision about what we will do and achieve, in terms of specific projects, targets and outcomes, over the next year. It is against this plan that the Council will assess its progress towards achieving the actions identified in the Medium Term Plans.

We will work towards these goals as follows:

Through our own policies and services

The Council will be able to take action itself to help to achieve a number of these outcomes through its services and policies such as the Local Development Framework. We will ensure that public services provided by or procured by the Council are efficient, effective and of good quality.

Working with others

Effective partnership working is key to making progress against many of the wider ranging outcomes. We will work with others to secure the provision of quality public services (by whatever route) that provide value for money and better meet people's needs.

We will work with our partners in the public, private and third sector to help to deliver our shared aims. These partners include the Suffolk Strategic Partnership (delivering the Suffolk Community Strategy), the Local Strategic Partnerships for Babergh East and West Suffolk, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Haven Gateway Partnership.

By listening to people

We are committed to listening to local people and involving them in the achievement of these outcomes. We will draw up a three-year consultation plan that sets out how we will do this. We will seek views on the medium term plans and the progress made in achieving them as well as investigating new issues that may be coming to the fore.

Monitoring progress

We need to ensure that we are clear what progress is being made in achieving these outcomes.

We will report progress against the medium term plans regularly. These will be public reports available on our website. We will look to include a summary of the progress made each year in the Council's Annual Report. We will undertake an annual 'stock take' of the issues and outcomes in the Strategic Plan to check they are still current and will undertake a full review in the first

year of a new Council or if there has been a substantial change in circumstances.

Managing risk

We will identify those issues that may prevent us achieving our priorities and put plans in place to address them through our risk management strategy.

Effective Resource Management

The Council's resources are limited and we will target them effectively to help achieve the outcomes highlighted in this plan. We will plan and manage the Council's finances in line with our financial strategy and ensure there is strong resource management throughout the organisation.

