

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FROM: Councillor Richard Kemp**

**REPORT NUMBER E278**

**TO: STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

**DATE OF MEETING 9 February 2006**

**SPARSE MEETING : 12 DECEMBER 2005**

Steven Pugsley was re-elected Chairman.

**Campaign for Sustainable Communities Bill**

Report from Local Works who are hoping to get a backbenchers bill into the Commons during November 2006 dealing with the demise of rural communities. If approved the Bill will place pressure on the Government to accept the problems that are familiar in rural areas. Please see details of this Bill.

R Kemp would like Babergh District Council to pass a motion of support for this Bill. It has cross party support and general supporters range from the Women's Institute to Farmers organisations and Unison.

**"Feeling the Squeeze"**

See paper tabled from N.F.U Countryside.

**Finance Settlement (See paper A)**

The new method of calculation was rejected by the LGA, but insisted upon by Government. Districts have done well on average 5%. Sparse districts in general above that figure.

Per head of population grant:

Shire areas : £375 per head  
London areas £760 per head  
Mets £640 per head

Within the calculation the ability of areas to:

Pay increased Council Tax.  
Now based on 2001 Census figures.  
Money for Education now separate 6.4%.  
Bus passes free for all £350 million + provided by Government.  
Capping threatened for anything over 5% increase.  
Lyons Report now due summer 2006.

See further reports:

**Transport to Schools (See paper B)**

**Rural Services Partnership (See paper C)**

**Budget Report (See paper D)**

Richard Kemp

6 January 2006