

PAPER G203

STRATEGY COMMITTEE 7 FEBRUARY 2008 – ADDITIONAL ITEM OF BUSINESS, AGENDA ITEM 11A

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON A NEW LEARNING CENTRE FOR 14 TO 19 YEAR OLDS IN SOUTH WEST IPSWICH AND SOUTH SUFFOLK ('The SWISS Centre'

The Council has just received from Suffolk County Council details of the public consultation on proposals for the Swiss Centre. The consultation period ends on 24 February 2008, which is before the next meeting of the Strategy Committee. A copy of the consultation document is available in the Members' Room.

In order to ensure that this Council's views on the proposals can be submitted to Suffolk County Council before the deadline, Strategy Committee is asked to approve officer delegation of the Council's response, as set out below. Members are advised that Sue Wigglesworth was Babergh's representative at meetings (held in late 2006/early 2007) of the Learning and Skills Council for Suffolk (LSC) Stakeholder Panel for the development of a new education centre to serve this area and it is therefore suggested that she be included in the delegation arrangements together with the Chairman of the Strategy Committee. Members are also advised that the Strategy Committee at its meeting on 16 November 2006 supported the principle of a new education centre of this type, particularly in view of the Council's corporate priority of raising individual ambition within the District.

RECOMMENDED

That Mike Hammond, Corporate Director, be authorised to respond to the public consultation on the SWISS Centre on behalf of Babergh District Council, in consultation with the Chairman of the Strategy Committee and Councillor Sue Wigglesworth in her capacity as the Babergh representative on the Stakeholder Panel which was involved in the initial development of proposals.

The Strategy Committee is able to resolve this matter.