



**Corks Lane
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**MEDIA RELEASE
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BABERGH OPTS FOR BUYRIGHTS SITE FOR HADLEIGH SUPERMARKET

At a meeting of its full Council, Babergh District Council has opted to back the Buyrights site as its preferred choice for any future Hadleigh supermarket.

The Councillors were debating a paper from the Strategy Committee that had recommended that the Brett Works site should be incorporated into the latest draft of Babergh's Local Plan.

This Local Plan provides a framework within which issues such as future housing, shopping, environmental, recreational and shopping needs can be manageably developed as opposed to being allowed to occur in a haphazard manner. Ultimately, the Local Plan involves a balance between competing needs – in order to ensure a prosperous and sustainable quality of life for all. Babergh's role is to take into account all of these competing needs, with officers offering impartial advice to Councillors and carrying out Council recommendations to the best of their ability.

Consultants' reports have shown that over 80% of food retail transactions made by Hadleigh residents take place outside of the town. A failure by Babergh District Council to acknowledge this fact and ensure that some provision is made in the Plan for increased food retail provision runs the risk of a Government Inspector deciding without reference to local concerns.

"Councillors looked at the various options for a potential superstore site. After careful consideration they accepted that provision needed to be made in the draft Local Plan for a superstore and that the Buyrights site was the best available option" said Neil Greig, Babergh's Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development.

"The whole Local Plan process is an incredibly thorough one. The revised draft of the Local Plan will be available for consultation in May this year, so residents and businesses will be able to comment on the changes made to the first draft. From spring 2004 onwards there will be an Inquiry into the final draft Local plan with the Inspectors Report published in 2005" outlined Mr Greig.

The new Plan will take effect in early 2006 and will be in force until 2016. ENDS

For further media information, contact Paul Simon, Communications & PR Officer (01473) 826634