

# Consultation Statement

## Core Strategy

Updated to October 2011



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## 1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this Consultation Statement is to set out how Babergh District Council (BDC) has involved the public during preparation of the Babergh Core Strategy Development Plan Document (part of the Babergh Development Framework) in accordance with Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 and with BDC's own Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which was adopted in December 2006.

A copy of Babergh's SCI can be accessed via:

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/Babergh/Home/Planning+and+Building+Control/Local+Development+Framework/Statement+of+Community+Involvement.htm>

1.2 In particular, this document sets out the following:

- Details relating to who was consulted at each stage, and how they were consulted;
- The representations received and a summary of the main issues that were raised;
- How these issues were taken into account during preparation of the next stage of the Core Strategy.

1.3 Before considering the above in more detail it is perhaps helpful to briefly set out the key stages that the Core Strategy document has gone through to date. These are summarised below:

- May 2009            Public consultation on 'Issues & Options' document (reg. 25)
- June 2010            *Unpublished draft 'Preferred Options' document*  
*(Note: The Preferred Options document was withdrawn following the Government's announcement that they intended to revoke Regional Spatial Strategies and, as a consequence, the scrapping of regional housing and job growth targets.)*
- Oct 2010            Public consultation on 'Growth Options' document (reg. 25)

## 2. Issues & Options: April - May 2009 (Regulation 25)

### Who was consulted?

2.1 Babergh District Council published its Issues & Options Core Strategy document for public consultation over a six week period commencing Tuesday 14th April 2009 and ending on Tuesday 26th May 2009. Over 500 organisations and individuals listed on the Babergh Local Development Framework contact database were notified, including all statutory and other specific consultation bodies as set out in Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, Planning Policy Statement 12 and in Babergh's SCI, e.g. the Police Authority, Natural England, English Heritage, the Coal Authority, adjoining Local Authorities, Parish Councils, etc. (For a full list please refer to Appendix A).

2.2 In addition, other organisations and community groups that were known to be active within the district and anyone who had previously contacted the Council and requested that they be kept informed of progress on the LDF were also notified.

*Note: The consultation database is constantly being updated as organisations, companies and private individuals change their contact details or ask to be added too or removed from the list.*

2.3 In total, some 180 statutory consultees, 75 representatives from various national interest groups, 116 local interest groups and residents and 151 representatives from the development industry were invited to comment.

### Methods of Consultation

2.4 A wide range of methods were employed to ensure that the Issues & Options consultation was published as widely as possible. The table below describes these actions in more detail:

<b>Engaging Statutory Consultees and others</b>	
Statutory Consultees and Service Providers	<p>Various discussions, meetings and workshops were held with statutory bodies and other services providers during preparation of the document. Areas discussed included infrastructure capacity, the environment, flooding and requirements for future growth.</p> <p>At the start of the consultation period a notification letter (see example at Appendix B) and copy of the consultation document was sent to all statutory consultees and service providers. A follow-up letter was sent to those who had not responded in order to understand why and to facilitate the best way of ensuring a response in the future.</p>

<p>District, Town and Parish Councils</p>	<p>A letter giving early notification of consultation was forwarded to all Councils in the District. A notification letter and copy of the consultation document was subsequently forwarded to all Town and Parish Councils.</p> <p>A follow up e-mail / letter was sent to all Town &amp; Parish Councils who did not respond to the consultation in order to understand why and to facilitate the best way of ensuring a response in the future.</p>
<p>Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)</p>	<p>BDC Officers attended a number of meetings convened by the Western Suffolk LSP and the East Suffolk LSP to ensure sufficient links were formed between the Communities Strategies and the BDF and, in particular, to discuss community priorities, key issues and options in the district</p> <p><u>Western Suffolk LSP</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 18<sup>th</sup> April 2008: LSP Engagement / Involvement &amp; the LDF</li> <li>▪ 20<sup>th</sup> June 2008: Community Priorities; BDF</li> <li>▪ 18<sup>th</sup> July 2008: Community Priorities; BDF</li> <li>▪ 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2008: LDFs &amp; linkages with Community Strategies</li> <li>▪ 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009: Issues &amp; Options Core Strategy</li> </ul> <p><u>East Babergh LSP</u></p> <p>BDC Officers attended the following meetings to discuss the listed aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2007: LDFs</li> <li>▪ 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2008: LDFs</li> <li>▪ 10<sup>th</sup> April 2008: Community Priorities</li> <li>▪ 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009: Issues &amp; Options Core Strategy</li> </ul>
<p>Cross-boundary Issues</p>	<p>The Council worked with other local authorities in Suffolk and Essex to ensure the appropriate sharing of information, the pooling of resources and to identify and address cross-boundary issues.</p>
<p>Public Exhibitions and Workshops</p>	<p>Four public exhibitions / workshops were held during March and April 2009 to help inform the general public about the CS process. A total of 95 attendees signed the registers at “drop-in” sessions held at:</p> <p>Hadleigh - 31<sup>st</sup> March 09      Shotley - 1<sup>st</sup> April 09  Sudbury - 2<sup>nd</sup> April 09      Brantham - 21<sup>st</sup> April 09</p>

	Information boards were used to outline key messages (such as the purpose of the Core Strategy, and how to get involved) and to draw attention to the consultation dates. Officers were on hand to answer questions and printed copies of the document were made available.
Newsletter	The Summer 2009 issue of 'Babergh Matters' (which is circulated free to all households in the district) carried an article explaining the importance of the Local Development Framework and encouraged residents to send in their views. A copy of this article is reproduced at Appendix C.
Web based publicity	A new page was created on the Councils website with links to the Issues & Options document, the Questionnaire and Sustainability Appraisal document. Respondents were encouraged to submit their comments directly via the DP Online consultation system.  An article drawing attention to the consultation event was also published on the OneSuffolk website.
Posters / Leaflets	Posters and leaflets giving early notification of the consultation event were distributed for display in libraries and on Town and Parish Council notice boards throughout the district.
Consultation points	Copies of the CS and supporting documents were made available at inspection points throughout the district. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Council Offices, Corks Lane, Hadleigh</li> <li>▪ Hadleigh Library</li> <li>▪ Sudbury Library &amp; Advice Centre</li> <li>▪ Great Cornard Library</li> <li>▪ Long Melford Library</li> <li>▪ Glemsford Library</li> <li>▪ Lavenham Library</li> <li>▪ Capel St Mary Library</li> </ul>
Consultation letters and documents	As indicated previously over 500 letters / e-mails were sent out to consultees listed on the BDF database. The letter provided details on where to view the documents and how to make a comment.
Hard to Reach Groups	A BDF exhibition was held as part of the Tenants Open Day on 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2008 at the Council Offices in Hadleigh.

<i>Hard to Reach Groups cont...</i>	Other attempts to contact hard to reach groups included contacting local High Schools; making consultation material available via the Mobile Library services that operate within Babergh and exploring other opportunities to contact new and emerging community groups via Council Housing colleagues and via the County Council's Social Exclusion team.
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### Summary of the Main Issues Raised and the Council's Response

- 2.5 A total of 381 separate comments were received from 78 individuals and organisations in response to the Issues & Options consultation. The majority of the responses received related to the spatial strategy. A number of questions were asked and options provided to help identify key issues to be addressed, targets to be set and to determine the preferred approach from the general public and stakeholders.
- 2.6 A summary of the main issues raised and the Council's response to these are set out below. A full list of the responses and their subsequent analysis can be accessed via:  
<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/3092089B-81F4-4AB7-81AE-CC0060A90597/0/FinalAnalysisandOResponsesSept09.pdf>

<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>BDC Response and Recommendation</b>
<b>General</b>	
Evidence base required for the natural and historic environment	BDC have completed a number of Conservation Area Appraisals (this process is on-going) with priorities determined by development pressures. The natural environment has been considered as shown on the Environmental Constraints Map. The importance of the natural and historic environment will be emphasised in the next Core Strategy document. These aspects will also be considered in more detail at the Development Management Policies stage and the Site Specific Allocations stage.
Include a Key Diagram	Agreed, this will be included in the next consultation document.
Parts of document more appropriate in DC Policies	Agreed, subjects/sections more appropriate to DC Policies will be excluded from the next Core Strategy document.

<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>BDC Response and Recommendation</b>
Improve consultations	Existing actions to involve the public will be continued / reviewed as BDC progress with the preparation of the Core Strategy. It is important to note that the public consultation requirements in the regulations and the Councils SCI have been met.
Core Strategy should be flexible	The next document will include a monitoring framework and will identify risks. It is also important to note that DPDs can be reviewed regularly.
Emphasise certain aspects (AONB, tourism, leisure, Shotley Peninsula, Haven Gateway).	Agreed, more emphasis will be placed on the AONB, tourism and leisure in the next Core Strategy document.
<b>Spatial portrait</b>	
Particular characteristics should be mentioned namely the Ipswich Fringe; Stour and Orwell.	These areas are referred to generally but will be referred to more explicitly in the next Core Strategy document.
Expand coverage of environmental / historic characteristics	Agreed, the environmental and historic characteristics will be expanded in the next document and the SSSI information will be checked.
Crime and disorder important local issue	Agreed, this will be reflected in the next Core Strategy document.
Define key issues more clearly	Agreed, a summary of the key issues will be provided in the next Core Strategy document.
<b>Spatial Vision and Objectives</b>	
Address gaps in Local Plan aims.	Agreed, gaps in the Local Plan aims will be addressed in the next Core Strategy document including the well-being of residents, the need for greater sustainability in the district, clearly defining infrastructure, placing more emphasis on the built form, the character of settlements and the historic and natural environment.

<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>BDC Response and Recommendation</b>
Spatial Vision and Objectives should be more spatially distinct	Agreed, the vision and objectives will be amended in the next document to include additional spatial aspects to make it more spatially and locally distinct.
<b>Spatial Strategy</b>	
Preferred options for growth	Comments regarding a preferred spatial strategy were considered together with the evidence base and Sustainability Appraisals and all this information informed the preparation of the next CS document.
Alternative options for spatial growth	The alternative options suggested for the spatial strategy were considered together with the evidence base and Sustainability Appraisals to inform the next CS document. It was not considered that any new realistic options were presented, nor that consultation on a combination of options was necessary. More detail regarding this will be contained in the next consultation document as well as a topic paper to support the preparation of the Spatial Strategy.
Historic core of Sudbury: exceptional and unsympathetic development could be detrimental to the quality of the historic environment.	These will be considered as part of broad locations and in more detail at Site Specific Allocations stage.
Development on the fringes of Sudbury should be sensitive to the scheduled monuments and their settings identified on the northern edge of the town & its environs.	These will be considered as part of broad locations and in more detail at Site Specific Allocations stage.
Key historic landscapes should be considered when determining how growth is accommodated in Sudbury incl. setting of the Grade II Park & Garden at Chilton Hall.	These will be considered as part of broad locations and in more detail at Site Specific Allocations stage.
An important historic landscape in its own right, Sudbury Water Meadows provide the setting for the town to the west and help to make legible the historic pattern of settlement. This area should be precluded from development.	These will be considered as part of broad locations and in more detail at Site Specific Allocations stage.

<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>BDC Response and Recommendation</b>
Any expansion on the northern edge of Sudbury should not significantly affect the separation between Sudbury and Long Melford.	These will be considered as part of broad locations and in more detail at Site Specific Allocations stage.
Hadleigh town centre is sensitive and development in the centre of the town would be extremely difficult to accommodate.	These will be considered as part of broad locations and in more detail at Site Specific Allocations stage.
Development extending from Hadleigh on higher areas would significantly impact upon the setting of the historic environment. Land to the west of the town has remained particularly rural, and this western aspect should be protected from any future expansion. There is little opportunity for large scale development in Hadleigh.	These will be considered as part of broad locations and in more detail at Site Specific Allocations stage.
Core Strategy timeframe up to 2031	Agreed, the timeframe has been amended to 2031 to accord with the timeframe considered for the RSS Review.
RSS Review needs to be considered	<p>Noted. Although progress has been made in terms of the RSS Review, it is too early in the process to include particular aspects. BDC is involved in the RSS Review process.</p> <p>The Core Strategy will include a monitoring framework to monitor and manage progress in terms of housing delivery. The Core Strategy can be reviewed on a regular basis.</p>
Minimum housing targets and appropriate provision should be considered	The Issues & Options refer to minimum (“at least”) figures and the reference to minimum figures will be referred to in the next Core Strategy document. The appropriate target for the district is considered to be the target in the RSS (East of England Plan) and this aspect will be addressed in the next Core Strategy.
Define Key Service Centres	Agreed, KSCs will be defined in the next Core Strategy.

<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>BDC Response and Recommendation</b>
Impacts of spatial strategy on surrounding areas	The Council is working with the Highways Agency regarding the impacts of the spatial strategy options on roads, incl' the impacts on surrounding districts. This study will form part of the evidence base for the Core Strategy. In addition the Appropriate Assessment will look at the impact on Special Protection Areas of surrounding districts.
Infrastructure concerns	The Council is working with the HA and other service providers regarding the impacts of the spatial strategy options on infrastructure provision. This research will form part of the evidence base for the Core Strategy.
Impact on historic / natural environment	BDC have completed a number of Conservation Area Appraisals (this process is continuing) with priorities determined by development pressures. The environmental constraints are shown on the Environmental Constraints Map. The importance of the natural and historic environment will be emphasised in the next Core Strategy document. These aspects will be considered in more detail at Site Specific Allocations stage. The Appropriate Assessment & Sustainability Appraisals will further inform the Core Strategy preparation.
Approach to rural housing	Noted. The comments will inform the CS preparation.
Approach to rural affordable housing in larger villages	Noted. The comments will inform the CS preparation.
Appropriate targets and use of brownfield land	Local information will support targets for brownfield land. In terms of PPS3 there are other considerations that should apply in terms of use of land and not just the use of brownfield land. Where appropriate brownfield land will be prioritised over Greenfield land. As a result of the scale of growth required for the district there will be a need to develop some Greenfield sites.

Key Issues	BDC Response and Recommendation
<b>Housing</b>	
Core Strategy policy for housing types and sizes	A Core Strategy Policy for housing types and sizes was included. More detail could potentially be included in DC Policies.
Affordable housing targets, percentages, proportions and thresholds	Comments received, local information, the evidence base and sustainability appraisals informed the affordable housing targets, percentages, proportions and thresholds.
Provision of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation	Comments regarding a policy for the provision of Gypsies, Travellers & Travelling Showpeople were considered together with the evidence base and Sustainability Appraisals, and all this information informed the preparation of the next CS document. Criteria were included as part of the policy.
Provision of transit sites	Comments regarding the provision of transit sites were considered, however the RSS is an important consideration and joint working across Suffolk authorities informed this policy.
<b>Employment</b>	
ELR and targets for job growth	Agreed, consult on options once ELR is complete.
Economic growth and housing growth	Agreed, economic growth should match housing growth. Job provision will reduce commuting and there is an unsatisfied demand for employment.
Retention of employment land	Comments regarding site reviews / employment land supply and flexibility will be addressed through a broader approach to ensuring sufficient land supply for employment uses.
Existing employment allocations	Agreed. The broader approach referred to above includes aspects of the three options that gained most support.
Use of brownfield land	Noted. The comments will inform the CS preparation.

<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>BDC Response and Recommendation</b>
Allocation of strategic sites	Agree. The outcomes of the ELR will help inform policy on this matter.
Rural economic growth in relation to the renewable energy industry	Agreed. The comments will inform the CS preparation.
Promotion of tourism	Agreed. The CS will continue to develop policy on rural tourism.
<b>Built and Natural Environment</b>	
Development Control Policies to address Special Landscape Areas / Landscape Character Assessments.	Agreed, these aspects will be addressed in DC Policies.
Outcomes of the SFRA to be progressed through the Core Strategy	Agreed, the SFRA is now completed and the outcomes will be progressed in the next Core Strategy document.
Development that impact on flood risk; climate change predictions for flood risk	These aspects are addressed in PPS25 and are therefore not addressed in the CS.
PPS25 address flood risk issues unless more local evidence exist	Agreed, these aspects are appropriately addressed in PPS25.
Development that impacts on air quality	Noted. These comments informed the Core Strategy preparation.
<b>Climate Change</b>	
Most important issues in terms of climate change and sustainability	Noted. These comments informed the Core Strategy preparation.
Evidence base to support climate change options	Agreed, this policy has been amended to reflect these comments.
Design guide regarding sustainability	Noted, the possibility of producing a design guide will be investigated as part of the preparation of DC Policies.
Targets and monitoring for climate change.	Noted, this has been considered in the CS.
Options for climate change and residential development	Agreed, this policy has been amended to reflect these comments.
Options for climate change and non-residential development	Agreed, this policy has been amended to reflect these comments.

<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>BDC Response and Recommendation</b>
Appropriate levels of renewable energy; proportion by decentralised sources and thresholds to apply	Agreed, this policy has been amended to reflect these comments.
<b>Town Centres</b>	
Promotion of viability and vitality in town centres	Agreed, this policy will be amended to provide a clear retail strategy for the district including the size of land that needs to be allocated.
<b>Social and Community Infrastructure</b>	
Best way to address crime and disorder	Agreed, other mechanisms should be investigated to deal with crime and disorder. DC policies will provide more details in terms of links between design and crime / disorder.
Core Strategy to address green infrastructure	Agreed, the CS will address green infrastructure. Details will be provided in DC Policies.
Approach to address community and social services / facilities	The Council is working with the Highways Agency and other service providers regarding the impacts of the spatial strategy options on infrastructure provision. This research will form part of the evidence base for the Core Strategy.
<b>Physical Infrastructure</b>	
Approaches to deal with physical infrastructure provision	The Council is working with the Highways Agency and other service providers regarding the impacts of the spatial strategy options on infrastructure provision. This research will form part of the evidence base for the CS.
An evaluation of the transport impacts should support the spatial strategy	The Council is working with the Highways Agency & SCC to produce an evidence base regarding the impacts of the spatial strategy options on road / highway infrastructure provision. This research will form part of the evidence base for the CS.

<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>BDC Response and Recommendation</b>
Additional aspects such as local waste transfer stations, waste recycling, waste management facilities, waste water treatment plants and water abstraction plants should be addressed.	Some of these aspects have been addressed in the CS but this section will be extended to include the mentioned aspects.

### **3. Preferred Options – (Regulation 27)**

- 3.1 Following the Issues & Options consultation in May 2009 work began almost immediately on drafting the next iteration of the Core Strategy – the Preferred Options document. Allowing for slippage in the timetable set out by the Council in its adopted Local Development Scheme, it was anticipated that this document would be made available for public consultation during the summer of 2010
- 3.2 In May 2010 a final draft of the Preferred Options document was presented to Babergh District Council's Strategy Committee. Their recommendation was that the document be submitted to full Council for approval for public consultation. Shortly afterwards, the newly elected Coalition Government issued a letter to all Chief Planning Officers signalling their intention to revoke Regional Spatial Strategies and with it, regional housing and jobs growth targets. Given this new direction, Babergh District Council decided that it should review and refocus on planning for housing and jobs growth in the district. A new draft consultation document (the Growth Options document) was prepared and presented to the Council's Strategy Committee at the end of July 2010. This document was approved by the Strategy Committee at that meeting and, subsequently, was approved by Full Council when they met at the end of August 2010.

### **4. Growth Options – October - November 2010 (Regulation 25)**

- 4.1 As noted above, the Government's decision to revoke Regional Spatial Strategies meant that BDC had to reconsider certain key aspects of its Core Strategy document – most notably housing and job growth targets. This new document, entitled 'Core Strategy: The Future Growth of Babergh to 2031' is hereafter referred to as the 'Growth Options' document.

#### **Who was consulted?**

- 4.2 Babergh District Council published its 'Growth Options' consultation document for public consultation over an eight week period commencing Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 and ending on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Over 500 organisations and individuals listed on the Babergh Development Framework contact database were notified, including all statutory and other specific consultation bodies as set out in Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, Planning Policy Statement 12 and in Babergh's SCI, e.g. the Police Authority, Natural England, English Heritage, the Coal Authority, adjoining Local Authorities, Parish Councils, etc. (For a full list please refer to Appendix A).
- 4.3 In addition, other organisations and community groups that were known to be active within the district and anyone who had previously contacted the Council and requested that they be kept informed of progress on the BDF were also notified.

*Note: The consultation database is constantly being updated as organisations, companies and private individuals change their contact details, or ask to be added to or removed from the list.*

- 4.4 The programme for publicising the Growth Options consultation broadly followed that established at the Issues & Options stage. The Council were particularly keen to seek a greater input from the districts Town and Parish Councils. Consequently, four workshop events were organised across the district with the intent of raising awareness of the growth issues amongst Town and Parish Councillors. These workshops also provided a platform from which they could take the consultation document back to their own communities and have an informed debate before submitting a formal response. These workshop events and their outcomes are explored in more detail later on.
- 4.5 In summary, some 163 statutory consultees, 38 representatives from various national interest groups, 156 local interest groups and residents and 192 representatives of the development industry were invited to comment on the Growth Options document.

### **Methods of Consultation**

- 4.6 The consultation programme was broadly similar to that followed by the Council at the Issues & Options stage. The table below describes in more detail what actions were taken:

<b>Engaging Statutory Consultees and others</b>	
Statutory Consultees and Service Providers	<p>A notification letter; which included a copy of the summary leaflet and details of where to view the full Growth Options document, was forwarded to all statutory consultees and service providers on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010.</p> <p>BDC has contacted service providers regarding infrastructure capacities, requirements and future growth for the district via questionnaires and e-mails, and has had input from them in the production of key documents which have informed the production of the Core Strategy. As such, officers have had several meetings with service providers to discuss these aspects in more detail throughout the CS process.</p>
Town and Parish Councils	<p>A letter giving early notification of the consultation exercise was posted out to Town and Parish Councils on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010. A formal notification letter, together with a copy of the Technical Appendix; Exec Summary and copies of the Consultation Leaflet, was subsequently forwarded on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010. The latter also included an invite to attend one of the workshop events.</p>

	<p>As a follow up, an e-mail was sent to all Town &amp; Parish Councils who did not respond to this invitation to ensure that the opportunity for participation was maximised. Those Town &amp; Parish Councils who did not participate in the workshop events were sent a further letter (which contained an exercise and questionnaire) on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010</p>
Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP)	<p>BDC Officers attended several West Suffolk LSP and Babergh East LSP meetings in 2007, 2008 and 2009 to ensure sufficient links between the Communities Strategies and the BDF. In particular, the meetings in April 2009 discussed community priorities, key issues and options in the district. The messages received from this engagement were then considered as part of the Issues &amp; Options process (including Growth Options).</p> <p>Both the West Suffolk LSP and Babergh East LSP were sent a formal consultation letter and were invited to respond as part of the Growth Options consultation exercise.</p>
Cross boundary issues	<p>The Council worked with other local authorities in Suffolk and Essex to ensure the appropriate sharing of information, the pooling of resources and to identify and address cross boundary issues.</p>
Public Exhibitions and Workshops	<p>No public exhibitions or workshops took place but see elsewhere for details of other methods of consultation that were carried out (posters, newsletters etc.) and also details of the Town &amp; Parish Councils Workshops.</p>
Newsletter	<p>The Summer 2010 issue of 'Babergh Matters' (which is circulated free to all households in the district) carried an article on the Growth Options consultation, giving details on where to view the document and how to submit comments. (See Appendix D).</p>
Web based publicity	<p>The Babergh DC website carried a news article on its homepage in September 2010 that drew attention to the up-coming Growth Options consultation. (See Appendix E)</p> <p>A new BDF webpage was also created with links to the Growth Options document, other Supporting Documents and the Response Questionnaire. As before, the public were invited to submit their responses via DP Online. (See Appendix E.)</p>

	<p>An article on the consultation event was also published on the 'OneSuffolk' website (See Appendix F).</p>
Posters / Leaflets	<p>As part of the early notification process for the Growth Options consultation, leaflets outlining the key issues and details on how to get involved were dispatched to every organisation / individual on the BDF consultation database. These leaflets were also made available to view at specified deposit points and at the Town &amp; Parish Council workshop events.</p> <p>To help publicise the consultation exercise more widely, two copies (with more available on request) of a publication poster were sent to each Town &amp; Parish Council in Babergh district for display on notice boards and in other prominent locations. Publication posters were also distributed by officers for display at libraries, leisure centres and village shops etc.</p>
Consultation Letters and Documents	<p>As indicated previously over 500 letters / e-mails were sent to consultees listed on the BDF database. The letter provided details of where to view the Growth Options document, how to make a comment and a copy of the leaflet that would assist the formulation of comments.</p>
Consultation points	<p>Copies of the Growth Options document (and other supporting documentation) were made available at inspection points throughout the district:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sudbury Library and Advice Centre;</li> <li>▪ Sudbury Tourist Information Centre</li> <li>▪ Hadleigh Library;</li> <li>▪ Long Melford Library;</li> <li>▪ Glemsford Library;</li> <li>▪ Lavenham Library;</li> <li>▪ Capel St Mary Library; and</li> <li>▪ Great Cornard Library.</li> <li>▪ The three SCC Mobile Libraries serving Babergh;</li> <li>▪ Babergh District Council Offices (Reception).</li> </ul>
Hard to Reach Groups	<p>Umbrella organisations such as the Equality &amp; Human Rights Commission and the Gypsy Council were invited to comment on behalf of ethnic minorities.</p> <p>A specially prepared consultation letter was sent to all of Babergh's High / Upper Schools. This letter aimed to raise awareness of the CS amongst younger generations and encourage them to get involved in the consultation process.</p>

	<p>People with disabilities were consulted through the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Commission.</p> <p>The venues chosen to host the Town &amp; Parish Council Workshops were chosen such that they were suitably equipped to meet necessary needs. On request, consultation material could also have been made available in Braille or in an audio format.</p> <p>Elderly people were consulted through the local authority, housing association services, and Age Concern Suffolk.</p> <p>For people living in remote areas without access to transportation, consultation could be either carried out on-line, through the relevant Parish Council, or on request by the individual or group wishing to be added to the list of consultees.</p>
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### Summary of the main issues raised by consultees and BDC's response

4.7 In total 73 responses were received to the Growth Options consultation. These were split roughly equally between Statutory Consultees (26 responses / 36%), Companies, Developers and Agents (23 responses / 31%), and Individuals / Non-statutory organisations (24 responses / 33%). The latter figure includes a collective response from ninety-one East Bergholt residents.

The majority of respondents focussed their attention on the relative pros and cons of the identified growth locations, the role of settlements within the proposed hierarchy and the fact that any growth should be delivered in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive manner. The table below provides more detail relating to the main points raised against each question and the Council's response to this.

4.8 A record of all the responses received to the Growth Options Consultation document can be accessed via the DP Online portal: <http://dpdata.babergh.gov.uk/dpdata/AcolNetCGI.exe>

Growth Options Question	Key Issues and BDC Response
<b>Employment Growth</b>	
Q1: Should Babergh adopt a cross-boundary or sub-regional approach towards economic development?	Respondents were broadly supportive of this idea. It was noted that Babergh could not be viewed in isolation and that its links with the Haven Gateway area, proximity to Ipswich, the Port of Felixstowe and the A12/A14 corridor were all good reasons for continuing this approach. The Submission document will continue to work on this basis.

Growth Options Question	Key Issues and BDC Response
<p>Q2: Preference for jobs growth scenarios.</p> <p><i>[Four options were set out. Respondents were asked to rank these in order of preference.]</i></p>	<p>Broadly speaking, the majority of respondents indicated a preference for a 'mid to high economic growth ambition.' This would see the district looking to deliver between 9,700 and 10,500 new jobs over the plan period. The Submission CS will promote the mid-range growth option which, subject to further analysis may in all reality prove to be an ambitious target for Babergh. As appropriate, it will encourage higher levels of growth where this is both sustainable and deliverable.</p>
<p>Q3: Are there any other scenarios / approaches that are preferable?</p>	<p>Approximately half of the respondents put forward suggestions for alternative scenarios, or made other comments. The main reasons for adopting an alternative approach were; applying a more flexible approach when setting job targets based on an areas potential, basing levels of job growth on existing transport networks and the affordability of providing additional capacity and, considering the work of emerging Local Economic Assessments to provide an economic context for alternative scenarios.</p> <p>The Submission CS will promote opportunities to maximise economic growth. This will primarily be through the development of strategic sites, but will also support other areas of economic growth and the rural economy, including tourism opportunities where appropriate.</p>
<p><b>Housing Growth</b></p>	
<p>Q4: Preference for housing growth scenarios.</p> <p><i>[A range of housing growth scenarios were set out. Respondents were asked to rank these in order of preference.]</i></p>	<p>There was a mixed response to Q4 as not everyone who expressed a preference ranked all 6 scenarios. Of those who did express a 1<sup>st</sup> choice, 50% stated that they preferred Scenario 2 [Affordable housing needs]. A further 30% said that they preferred one of the three Scenario 1 options (of which, half opted for Scenario 1B). Of those who expressed a 2<sup>nd</sup> choice preference, (53% said that they preferred Scenario 1B).</p> <p>In addition to these mixed responses, the Submission CS will also need to take into consideration the outcomes of the workshop events, Town &amp; Parish Questionnaires and the current need for the CS to demonstrate general conformity with the RSS. Having regard to all these factors, the CS will propose a level of housing development which seeks to address housing need, including affordable housing, but is also of a level that is considered to be deliverable.</p>

Growth Options Question	Key Issues and BDC Response
<p>Q5: Are there any other scenarios / approaches that are preferable?</p>	<p>A number of suggestions were put forward, none of which appeared to offer any real alternative scenario to those already considered. Instead, they appeared more to offer comments on infrastructure capacity, environmental capacity and general flexibility.</p> <p>The CS will provide a level of growth that is sustainable, deliverable and will respect environmental capacity. It will introduce greater flexibility and will ensure that all new development will be supported by appropriate infrastructure as required.</p>
<p>Q6: Do you agree with the suggested settlement hierarchy?</p>	<p>The majority of respondents (82%) who directly answered Q6 said that they agreed with the proposed settlement hierarchy. It was suggested that growth at KSCs could play an important role in terms of maintaining current services and encouraging the development of new services to sustain and enhance more rural communities. (See also response below).</p>
<p>Q7: Do you agree with the population threshold for defining Key Service Centres?</p>	<p>Two-thirds of the (64%) of respondents who directly answered Q7, said that population thresholds should not be used to define KSCs. Opinions ranged from the approach being too simplistic to having a two-tier category whereby KSCs are defined based on population thresholds of 1000 and 2000. (See also response below.)</p>
<p>Q8: Do you agree with the other suggested criteria for defining KSCs?</p>	<p>Approximately two-thirds of the respondents (61%) who directly answered Q8 said that they agreed with the other suggested criteria for defining KSCs. Attention was drawn to the apparent arbitrary nature of the criteria and it was also suggested that the capacity of existing facilities to cater for larger populations should be taken into account when indentifying KSCs. (See also response below.)</p>
<p>Q9: Do you agree with the other villages approach and criteria?</p>	<p>Approximately three-quarters (72%) of the respondents who directly answered Q9 said that they agreed with the other villages approach and criteria. Some questioned the need to have an 'other village' category, suggesting that growth should be encouraged in all rural settlements where services and facilities can be supported and encouraged. Attention was also drawn to the role of broadband as an enabler of growth and better work-life balance. (See also response below.)</p>

<b>Growth Options Question</b>	<b>Key Issues and BDC Response</b>
Q10: Do you agree with the other smaller settlements approach and criteria?	There was a mixed response to Q10 with a number of respondents suggesting that a blanket ban on development was less desirable than smaller settlements being allowed to grow in a holistic manner, especially where this could be seen to offer real local benefit to the community concerned. (See also response below).
Q6 - Q10	Taking Q6 to Q10 as a whole it would appear that the overall settlement hierarchy approach, as set out in the Growth Options document, was broadly accepted. However, in response to the mapping exercise and some of the more detailed comments coming out of the workshop events, it was felt that the CS going forward should take a slightly more holistic approach with less emphasis placed on population thresholds as the determining factor to identify KSCs / other villages and settlements and more emphasis placed on the actual networks that exist between settlements and their function.
<b>Where should the growth go?</b>	
Q11: Should we plan mainly for larger developments through urban extensions?	The majority of respondents agreed to the principle that that we should plan mainly for larger developments through urban extensions. The Submission CS will identify new directions for growth as urban extensions.
Q12: Hadleigh – preferred direction(s) for growth.	Only a few respondents actually commented on the proposed growth directions around Hadleigh. These seemed to support growth in one direction only with reservations expressed about growth to the south and west due to physical constraints. The majority of respondents used this question as an opportunity to promote growth at the other broad locations at Sudbury and on the Ipswich Fringe. The Submission CS will provide for some growth around Hadleigh.
Q13: Sudbury & Great Cornard – preferred directions for growth.	Of those respondents who express a clear preference, broad locations 5 and 6 were identified as the most appropriate areas for growth. Broad locations 4 and 7 were seen to have too many constraints. Once again, the majority of respondents used this question as an opportunity to promote growth at the other broad locations at Hadleigh and on the Ipswich Fringe. The Submission CS will set out proposed growth around Sudbury.

Growth Options Question	Key Issues and BDC Response
Q14: Ipswich Fringe – preferred directions for growth.	Of those who directly answered Q14, there were mixed opinions as to which of the broad locations was best suited to accommodate future growth. In accepting that one or other of these locations may come forward opinion seemed to be unanimous that this should only happen if it were accompanied by improvements to the transport network and that it takes into consideration the proximity of the Stour & Orwell SPA and the need for any development to be closely reviewed through the HRA. The Submission CS will set out proposed growth at the Ipswich Fringe subject to the outcomes of the HRA.
Q15: Which of the 9 broad locations should not be developed?	There was a mixed response to Q15, with broad locations 2, 4, 7 & 9 all being mentioned as ‘no’ growth’ areas. At least two respondents stressed the importance of growth only being deliverable if it comes forward in a sustainable and feasible manner.
Q16: Are there any alternative broad locations for growth?	Of those who responded to Q16, 45% offered an alternative / other approach. On further analysis, Brantham appeared to be the only clear alternative location put forward. The Submission CS will look at the particular regeneration needs in this area.

### Town & Parish Council Workshops

4.9 As noted above, four workshop events were held across the district that were specifically aimed at encouraging debate on the ‘growth issues’ amongst Town & Parish Councillors’. In total, 90 councillors representing 48 Town & Parish Councils (64% of all such councils in the district) attended these workshops, together with 19 Elected Members of Babergh District Council. The workshops were held at:

- Brantham Village Hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010
- Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2010
- Pinewood Community Hall on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010
- Acton Village Hall on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010

4.10 Each workshop was divided into two parts, a mapping exercise and group discussion.

**Mapping Exercise:** - Each town and parish was asked to identify where they would normally travel to in order to access a range of key services (primary school, doctors, local convenience shop, employment and access to public transport). The exercise had the joint objectives of getting the attendees to think about the wider relationships that exist between settlements and also to enable us to better understand the relationships that exist between settlements.

**Group Discussion:** - Attendees were split into groups, each tasked with considering one of three topic areas - Housing, Employment or Spatial Strategy. To help focus the discussion; which was facilitated by a Planning Officer and/or Elected Member, a set of prompt questions had been prepared. Each group was also provided with data sheets containing useful facts and figures on their topic area. Key discussion points were recorded and each group presented their findings at the end of the evening.

- 4.11 As part of an agreed follow-up procedure, all the comments made were written up and sent out by e-mail to the attendees the following day. Additional copies of the Growth Options document and Summary Leaflet were also made available on the night. Each town and parish council was also given a Consultation Questionnaire. This mirrored the structure of the workshop discussion and was meant to enable them to promote informed debate within their local communities before submitting a formal response.
- 4.12 Because not all councils were able to send a representative to one of the workshop events, and to ensure that this process was as inclusive as possible, a copy of the mapping exercise and questionnaire was sent to all town and parish councils who fell into this category. A copy of the mapping exercise and questionnaire was also sent to a number of parish councils who lie adjacent to and across the district boundary.
- 4.13 A document that brings together all the comments raised across the four workshops can be found at Appendix H. On the whole, the majority of attendees demonstrated a healthy appetite for allowing small level sustainable housing growth to come forward across the district as a whole. There was also a lot of discussion around the need for affordable housing (although 'affordable' in this sense did not specifically mean subsidised open-market housing). It was also felt that the right type of housing was necessary – housing that would enable local residents to remain where they were but still have the flexibility to up-size or down-size as needs dictated. The lack of a high-speed internet service across large parts of the district was also seen as a major constraint to allowing people to enjoy a better work-life balance and as a limiting factor in terms of encouraging small scale employment opportunities in the more rural areas.
- 4.14 The workshop events proved to be a successful method of engaging with Town and Parish Councils across the district and were received in a very positive light. Given this, it is anticipated that a similar general approach will be used as part of the Submission CS consultation programme. Much of what was discussed at these workshop events will also be taken forward and used to help inform the content and direction of the Submission Core Strategy document.

## Appendix A: List of Consultees

### Statutory Consultees:

Parish & Town Councils  
Local Authorities, Parish and Town Councils adjoining the Babergh District  
Central Suffolk, Ipswich, Suffolk and West Suffolk Health PCT's and the East of England Strategic Health Authority  
Anglian Water  
Babergh East Local Strategic Partnership  
British Telecom  
County Director of Education  
Defra  
Department for Transport  
Department of Trade & Industry  
EDF Energy  
EEDA  
EERA (*Consulted at Issues & Options stage only. EERA was dissolved on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010*)  
East Suffolk Health Services  
Energy Saving Trust  
English Heritage  
Environment Agency  
E-On  
Go-East (Note: Go-East closed on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011)  
Highways Agency  
Home Builders Federation  
National Grid Transco  
Natural England  
Network Rail  
Office of Government Commerce  
Suffolk Constabulary  
Suffolk County Council  
The Coal Authority  
West Suffolk Hospital NHS trust  
West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership

### Others:

Village Societies & Residents Groups  
House-builders & developers  
Schools  
Sports / Recreation Clubs  
The Gypsy Council  
Business & Commerce  
Individuals and organisations wishing to be notified of future changes  
Local Agents  
Conservation and Environmental Groups  
Planning Consultants  
Chartered Surveyors

## Appendix B: Example of letter sent to consultees notifying them of the forthcoming Issues & Options consultation



Malcolm Firth B.Sc. MCIEH  
Head of Natural and Built Environment  
Babergh District Council  
Corks Lane, Hadleigh, Ipswich IP7 6SJ

DX NO: 85055 Exchange: Babergh  
Website: [www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk)

**EXAMPLE**

Your Ref:  
My Ref:

Please ask for: Charlotte Oben  
Phone Direct Line: **01473 826678** ☎  
Fax: 01473 825738  
Email: [ldf@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@babergh.gov.uk)

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009

Dear Sir / Madam

### **A new District-wide Plan for Babergh; Babergh Development Framework Core Strategy – Your Views Invited**

Babergh Council is starting the process of replacing Babergh's current Local Plan (adopted in 2006). The new Plan is to be called the 'Babergh Development Framework' (or 'BDF' for short) and this will set out the long-term vision for the future planning of the district until 2027 (but the period to 2031 must also be considered). This strategy will identify the broad locations and approaches for housing and employment land uses. Please refer to the brief information set out overleaf that aims to explain the nature of the first stage of the BDF in a straightforward way. This stage is called the 'Issues & Options' document (Regulation 25) consultation stage.

The public consultation period will run for 6 weeks from Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April until Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009 (5.00 pm) inclusive. Electronic responses are particularly convenient, helpful and welcomed and we have set up an easy to use consultation system for this, please refer to the attached guidance. Otherwise, we will accept e-mails, standard electronic or paper representation forms, or even traditional paper letters (if really necessary)! Only written responses can be accepted though.

For most consultees a paper copy of the document is not enclosed, in the interests of saving paper. If not, please see a copy on Babergh's website at [www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/ldf](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/ldf). Otherwise, the document may be viewed at Babergh's HQ office in Corks Lane Hadleigh, its advice centre in Market Hill, Sudbury; at Hadleigh Town Council's offices, Hadleigh; or at any of the district's libraries (including mobile library service).

Please telephone or email us on the above number / email address if you have any questions. However, please note that we will not be in a position to receive / discuss representations personally, since these must be written, rather than delivered or reinforced verbally. Up-to-date information is available on Babergh's website (see above link) on producing this new Plan.


We look forward to receiving any comments you may wish to make.

Yours faithfully

**Rich Cooke**  
Planning Policy Manager  
Enc.

Chief Executive: Patricia Rockall

Deputy Chief Executive: Mike Hammond

 Minicom: 01473 825878 (Minicom is a text phone service for the deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired)

# Your area in the future - Your voice now!

**I**s the future of your town or village important to you? Are you concerned about where your children might live when they grow up, where and how the services we all need will be provided and how your environment will be protected? At first sight, the term Local Development Framework (LDF) might not seem that important. But your attitude might change if you knew that it is the means by which Babergh will direct where new housing and businesses will go - and how important issues such as sustainable living should be in the future. In recent months, Babergh has already been touring the district trying to explain what the LDF is all about and what should be its guiding principles. Babergh staff have pitched up at Brantham, Hadleigh, Shotley and Sudbury to meet with the public and hear their views on these important matters. Rich Cooke, Babergh's Planning Policy Manager, said: "These conversations with residents and business people have been really helpful in starting to shape some of the answers to key questions such as 'should future new housing be spread evenly across the district or concentrated in the two market towns and on the fringe of Ipswich?'. "It is certainly not too late for people to submit their thoughts on such 'big

picture' questions." In the autumn, Babergh will be producing another report which pulls together the responses from this first consultation and other comments received. During 2010 the Council will start the process of identifying specific locations for future developments - at which point the public will again have a chance to have an influence. Only written responses can be accepted, so please visit [www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk) to download a response form. Please telephone 01473 826678 or email us on [ldf@babbergh.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@babbergh.gov.uk) if you have any further questions or would like a response form sent to you.



# Help shape future development

What should the Babergh area be like in the next 20 years?

Babergh wants your views as it prepares to consult on the draft Babergh Development Framework (BDF) Core Strategy.

The strategy will set out policies to provide mixed and balanced communities, growth in the right place at the right time and with the necessary social, physical and green infrastructure. It will also look at producing a sustainable local economy, while ensuring that all new development plans for the effects of climate change. Babergh will be asking everyone for their views and this will be a valuable chance to make changes to the plan before it is finalised. Interested parties will be able to download the draft Core Strategy from the Babergh website [www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk) or view it at all libraries across the district, Hadleigh and Sudbury Town Halls, and at Planning Reception at Babergh's offices in Hadleigh.

How to make your comments:

■ You can comment online at [www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk) there is a link from the web pages to an online consultation system. Using this method helps to make the process more efficient.

■ You can e-mail us at [ldf@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@babergh.gov.uk) (please tell us your contact details and which part of the document you are commenting on)

■ You can write to us at:  
Planning Policy  
Babergh District Council  
Corks Lane  
Hadleigh  
Suffolk  
IP7 6SJ

For more information about the timetable for consultation please refer to our website, email: [ldf@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@babergh.gov.uk) or call 01473 826678.

# Appendix E: Babergh News - Babergh DC website (posted on 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010)

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## BABERGH RESIDENTS ASKED TO PLAN THEIR FUTURE

**Summary**  
Following the scrapping of the Regional Plan by the Coalition Government earlier this summer, Babergh District Council today (October 1) becomes the first council in Suffolk to ask their residents how the district and each part of it should grow in the future.

Following the scrapping of the Regional Plan by the Coalition Government earlier this summer, Babergh District Council today (October 1) becomes the first council in Suffolk to ask their residents how the district and each part of it should grow in the future.

With the housing and jobs growth targets scrapped, Babergh's planners need to know what people think are the right figures for which they need plan.

An eight week period of consultation starts on October 1 and people are invited to have their say on how the district should look – in the broadest sense - over the next 20 years. A number of different scenarios are set out in the document with suggested housing growth levels ranging from 1,900 to 10,400 new houses depending on which factors are considered most influential, and jobs growth numbers ranging from 8,100 to 10,500.

The document also shows a range of nine potential "Broad Locations" for growth to choose from and to rank by preference – four around Sudbury and Great Cornard, three around Hadleigh and two on the Babergh Ipswich Fringe.

"It's all about priorities" said Cllr. Nick Ridley, Chairman of the Council's Strategy Committee, "planning for growth in Babergh is about balancing growth with protecting our natural resources. Scrapping the Regional Plan means that we can start from the bottom up and set our own targets and priorities".

"We want people to help shape a vision for the growth of our district, and to help us choose how much development we should have over the next twenty years and where it should go."

If you want to be part of the new 'bottom-up' approach to planning these high-level targets and saying where the growth should go in Babergh it's all on the Babergh website [www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/ldf](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/ldf) and copies of the document and leaflets are available at all libraries (including mobile libraries) in the district, town council offices and the main Babergh Council office in Hadleigh. Responses need to be made in writing and with the council by November 26 at the latest.

**Contact us ....**

<b>Team:</b>	Communications Team
<b>Web:</b>	<a href="http://www.babergh.gov.uk">www.babergh.gov.uk</a>
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:paul.simon@babbergh.gov.uk">paul.simon@babbergh.gov.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:emma.morton@babbergh.gov.uk">emma.morton@babbergh.gov.uk</a>
<b>Telephone:</b>	01473 825634
<b>Minicom/textphone:</b>	01473 825878
<b>Fax:</b>	<b>Address:</b> Babergh District Council Corick Lane Hadleigh IPSWICH IP7 6SJ

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## Appendix F: Growth Options Consultation webpage (posted October 2010)

(Note: The screen print reproduced here includes text that was added in December 2010 to draw the viewer's attention to the fact that the consultation period had closed.)



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### Growth Options Consultation (2010)

**Summary**  
Babergh District Council has commenced work on the first part of the new planning framework, namely the Core Strategy that will replace the adopted Local Plan. Once adopted this document will set out the broad vision and spatial strategy for Babergh for the next 20 years. Work on an 'Issues and Options' document was completed in mid 2009. However, following revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy (and regional growth targets), Babergh is now consulting the public on future growth levels/ scenarios for the district in the absence of a Regional Spatial Strategy.

Please note that the public consultation period on this document closed on Friday 26th November. The Council would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to submit their views and comments.

Babergh District Council has started the process of replacing the current Local Plan (adopted in 2006). The new Plan is to be called the '[Babergh Development Framework](#)' (BDF for short).

The Council is working on the first part of this planning framework that will replace the adopted Local Plan, namely the 'Core Strategy'. The Core Strategy will set out the broad vision and policies for Babergh in the future.

The Core Strategy looks at the 'bigger picture', not just in terms of land use planning, but also considers the social, economic and environmental perspective. It does not consider the specific, fine details of any issue or individual development (such as site specific allocations or development management issues) but will instead look strategically at these matters.

The Core Strategy will be developed in stages and we would like to encourage as many people as possible to become involved. Babergh completed work on the 'Issues and Options' document in mid 2009. Since then we have assessed the responses received, have been gathering further evidence, and have been working on the next stage of the Core Strategy. However, since May 2010, the new Coalition Government has announced and implemented a number of changes that affect how we plan for future growth, particularly the revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies (in this area the East of England Plan).

Revocation of the East of England Plan means that local authorities are now responsible for determining growth targets for new homes and jobs in their local area. We have therefore decided to review where we are in the Core Strategy preparation process and seek your views on growth and how it should be planned for. To this end we have produced a Growth Options document as the basis for gathering views from as many residents, businesses, and service providers as possible during an eight week period of engagement and consultation. Your views will help us to determine how much growth we should plan for, and the potential broad locations for future growth.

The official consultation period ran from Friday 1st October until Friday 26th November 2010 (4.30 pm) inclusive.

The Full Summary, Technical Appendix and other supporting documents can still be accessed by following the links below:

- [Summary Leaflet](#) (PDF, 590KB)
- [Summary Document](#) (PDF, 136KB)
- [Technical Appendix \(Full Document\)](#) (PDF, 418KB)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (PDF, 13KB)
- [Growth Options Response Form](#) (Word, 92KB)
- [Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment \(Main Report\)](#) (PDF, 1.07Mb)
- [Sustainability Appraisal \(Appendix\)](#) (PDF, 711KB)
- [Sustainability Appraisal Response Form](#) (Word, 68KB)

Copies of these documents can also be viewed at the following locations:

- Babergh's HQ office in Corks Lane Hadleigh,
- Babergh's advice centre in Market Hill, Sudbury;
- Hadleigh Town Council's offices; and
- Any of the libraries in the district (including mobile library service).

Experience has shown that electronic responses are not only convenient and helpful but also more efficient for us to process so we have set up an easy to use [consultation system](#). (For more information about this please refer to our [guidance notes](#) (PDF, 84KB). You can also submit your comments via e-mail or in writing. Standard electronic or paper response forms are available and can be downloaded from our website. Please note that only written responses can be accepted and comments cannot be treated as confidential.

If you have any further questions, please telephone 01473 826678 or email us at [ldf@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@babergh.gov.uk). However, please note that we will not be in a position to receive / discuss representations personally.

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Appendix G: One Suffolk website (Screen shot taken on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010)

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Village of the Month  
Younger People

**REPORT IT!**  
Report a problem directly to your local authority from fly-tipping to noise

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**Village of the month**  
**Monk Soham**, four miles east of Debenham, has a particularly wide five light church window and a beautiful area of common land.  
[Find out more...](#)

Following the scrapping of the Regional Plan by the Coalition Government, Babergh District Council is asking their residents and other interested parties how the district should grow in the future. If you want to be part of planning where the growth should go in Babergh you can follow the link below for more information.  
[Planning in Babergh](#)

**How to avoid Rogue Traders**  
Suffolk Trading Standards launch the Suffolk Trusted Trader Scheme  
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**Credit Crunch Suffolk**  
Our website contains links to the best independent advice to help you survive and thrive during the economic downturn.  
[Credit Crunch Suffolk](#)

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Available to all community groups, regardless of size. Easy to use and no catches. Find our [on-line joining form here](#) See our [community websites here](#)

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## **Appendix H: Summary of main issues raised during the Town & Parish Council Workshop events (October 2010)**

A total of four workshops were held during October 2010, with at least one group at each workshop covering one of the following themes;

- Spatial Strategy/ Distribution
- Housing Growth
- Employment growth.

The summary below identifies the key issues / points raised under each theme across all four workshop events.

### **Spatial Strategy / Distribution**

- Most of the smaller villages look to larger nearby settlements for many of their essential needs (Map exercise illustrates relationship between settlements for services).
- The value and relevance of applying a settlement hierarchy was questioned as a matter of principle.
- Some suggest that the settlement pattern be considered as clusters of villages rather than the hierarchical approach. This provides a more local approach and enables the relationship between settlements to be considered when planning for growth in the future.
- The clusters of villages identified should reflect defined “communities”
- Some villages are working together to deliver affordable housing schemes, recognising the links between villages and in communities.
- Some Parishes indicated disagreement in respect of where the proposed hierarchy currently places them, including;
  - Bures St Mary (Key Service Centre) - consider they should be an Other Village due to the lack of facilities and particularly question the reference to a convenience store and local employment;
  - Cockfield (Other Village) - Should be a Key Service Centre in view of the services available);
  - Polstead (Other Village) - Should be defined as countryside due to the lack of facilities and reduction of the bus service;
  - Stoke by Nayland (Other Village) - Should be a Key Service Centre.
  - Pinewood has its own identity and should be listed as a parish rather than referred to just as the Ipswich Fringe.
- Many of the rural villages provide a reasonable number of jobs when you include those provided by farming, village services, schools and working from home.
- It is generally considered that most villages should receive some housing growth, (few minority exceptions). Most of the smaller villages wish to see small scale growth.
- Common view that precluding development in the small villages could limit services being provided or improved and as such small villages should not be ruled out as unsustainable;
- Housing growth that villages would like to see, includes a mix of houses, to include affordable low cost houses to buy as well as social / housing association housing to rent for local people;
- General support was expressed for the concept that development should be incremental and proportionate to the size of the settlement. This suggests a distribution pattern of spreading development wide and thin.

- A greater number of smaller units are required to enable older people to down size and free up some of the larger family homes in many villages.
- Main employment needs are expected to be met in larger towns. An acceptance that you live in a rural area so you need to commute to work prevails in most areas of the district;
- Community based business hubs should be established in some locations, based on low cost, low key sharing of essential business facilities such as good internet access and IT and printing equipment.
- Some reference to the proportion of development between settlements was suggested, although by no means a consensus or conclusive including;
  - Proportion of growth suggested for Sudbury is too high;
  - Sudbury & Great Cornard have had a lot of development in the past. More should be directed to the east of the district including Hadleigh.
  - KSC's could take 100 houses over 20 years (5 a year), although some views expressed that this is not enough
  - Suggestion in principle that more development should be in the town and bigger villages, but all should receive some small scale growth- should be proportional to the size of the settlements.

### **Housing Growth**

- General agreement (with minority exceptions) that we need to plan for housing growth;
- Needs to be a balance between housing growth & employment growth.
- Need to look to a range of opportunities to provide affordable housing to meet local need, particularly in cases where land for exceptions schemes is problematic.
- The benefits identified as a result of housing growth include:
  - Affordable housing
  - Stronger communities and new communities
  - Allows families to stay in the area
  - Sustain village services especially shops and schools;
  - Can provide infill without damaging the character of the settlement;
  - Meet housing needs
- The disadvantages identified as a result of housing growth include:
  - Danger of coalescence between settlements;
  - Houses on their own are not enough, also need the services and infrastructure;
  - Increase in traffic
  - Loss of green space
  - Threat to the character of rural communities
  - Impact on existing services if the necessary infrastructure is not also provided.
- No new housing growth stagnates village(s) as population continues to age.
- Housing size is a key issue. There is a trend of loosing smaller units as people extend properties and stay in them rather than move to larger dwellings.
- Provision of additional sheltered housing required to address problems associated with the increasing ageing population.
- Settlements need all age groups to provide a balanced community.
- There needs to be a clear link between housing growth and the delivery of jobs, economic growth and infrastructure.

- Average wages in Babergh equal a barrier to accessing housing.
- Should not have housing growth for growth's sake, but be in response to a clear housing need.
- If the emphasis of economic growth is focussed around Ipswich why is so much housing proposed in Sudbury / Great Cornard?
- Good infrastructure will pull in more skilled and higher paid employers. Infrastructure is the key to this rather than additional housing.
- Accepted by many that some market housing will help deliver more affordable housing.
- Village services will decline if no new houses are provided over a long period of time.
- Public transport is essential in areas where housing is developed (emphasised further as people age- often rely more on public transport).
- Some suggest there should be greater opportunities to rent properties at an affordable rent, rather than properties to buy.

### **Employment Growth**

- Out-commuting is a fact of life as Babergh has no big main employer, so many workers look to Ipswich, Colchester, Bury St Edmunds, Felixstowe and London.
- Home working is increasing, but often restricted by poor coverage of Broadband and Mobile phone networks.
- Copdock Interchange delays impacts negatively on economic growth.
- Some businesses are discouraged from locating in Babergh because of the inadequacy of infrastructure, including in particular, transport & Broadband.
- Villages should have employment growth of an appropriate scale. This should relate to the size of the settlement.
- Farm Diversification - conversion of farm buildings provides for small scale employment opportunities in the rural areas.
- Key area of employment in Babergh now and in the future is in the service sector.
- New opportunities for employment lie within tourism.
- Babergh should be promoted as a place for rest / relaxation & be proud of it.
- A mixed economy would be more robust.
- Need to train and change the skills base in the district.
- Planning policy should be more flexible and allow for more jobs growth in rural areas;
- Some large sites are allocated, but are employers attracted to locate here and actually deliver.
- For Suffolk to be promoted for economic growth it is necessary to address the communication issues.
- The haven ports provide employment and attract large numbers of commuters which can cause congestion.
- Many jobs available in Babergh are low skilled and low paid.
- Housing should be related to existing areas of employment.
- A long term vision is needed for the market towns.

- The correct housing types and affordability need to be provided to match the jobs available. (Lower paid less skilled workforce and service sector).
- Overall employment offer in the district is poor.
- Housing & employment need to be related. Employers will locate where pool of labour exists.
- It is difficult to match job types with housing provision due to pay levels.
- Brownfield sites must be retained and promoted for employment uses. Important to retain and reuse employment sites for that purpose.
- Babergh should recognise its strengths and promote economic opportunities from them, including tourism and local produce from the agriculture sector.
- Area has relatively low unemployment.
- Aging population will mean that fewer jobs are required.
- The infrastructure is better in the east of the district- along the A12 corridor.
- Access to main trunk road network from Sudbury area is poor due to poor overall road structure.
- Consider more mixed-use development schemes which provide jobs and homes.
- Need to encourage high-tech companies to this area.
- Need to strengthen links with the University to address skills shortage issues.
- Rural employment OK to a point, but need to remain protective of the rural environment.
- Need to ensure there is careful selection of actual employment uses especially in rural areas to avoid problems of large vehicles on small roads.
- Opportunity to look towards Ports & Logistic and Energy Sectors for employment growth and supporting the ports at Harwich and Felixstowe.
- There is a reducing need for business parks and traditional industrial estates, as more people work from home and travel to more dispersed employment bases.