



**Corks Lane  
Hadleigh  
Ipswich IP7 6SJ**

**MEDIA RELEASE  
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**BABERGH BACKS CHILTON DEVELOPMENT SEPARATE FROM  
WESTERN BYPASS**

At a meeting of its full Council, Babergh District Council has opted to back the building of 700 homes and new industry at Chilton without a firm commitment being given for the building of a bypass to the west of Sudbury.

The Councillors were debating a paper from the Strategy Committee that had recommended that the development at Chilton 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.

"Councillors considered that it was important to include the Chilton development in the local plan without having a definite commitment for the western bypass. The County Council is pursuing the provision of the bypass anyway and the local plan safeguards this opportunity. Babergh wants to work in partnership with the County Council to help ensure the bypass happens. The rationale was that a failure to 'decouple' the two could put pressure on the surrounding villages to accept more houses. In addition, the proposed development has a value in itself as a magnet for businesses to come into the area and to ensure that a large number of affordable homes are built for local people" 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