

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Councillor John Hinton and Strategic Director (Place)	Report Number: M139
To: Overview and Scrutiny (Community Services) Committee	Date of Meeting: 29 January 2013

ANNUAL REPORT OF HAVEN GATEWAY PARTNERSHIP (HGP)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Committee with an overview of the issues tackled by the Haven Gateway Partnership (HGP) in 2011/12 and to enable Committee to scrutinise all work carried out.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the content of this report be noted subject to any comments the Committee may wish to make.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no new financial implications arising from this overview of work undertaken by HGP in 2011/12.
- 3.2 In total for an annual membership fee of £6,000 (plus officer time) over £185,000 in the last two years has been levered in by HGP to fund schemes in the Babergh area.

In addition to this the HGP has taken a lead role in the Rail strategy and A14 lobbying, the reconvening of the Ipswich Policy Area and the development of Innovation Martlesham.

4. Risk Management

- 4.1 There are no risks arising from this report.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Consultation is not applicable to this report.

6. Equality Analysis

- 6.1 Haven Gateway Partnership ensures its programmes provide equal and fair access for all groups. A number of schemes have made a positive contribution to Babergh's Fairness and Equal access agenda, e.g. the scheme at Pin Mill has had a positive impact on community relations, bringing together and addressing the needs of various community groups ranging from houseboat owners, sailing clubs, Parish Council and local boatyards.

7. Shared Service / Partnership Implications

- 7.1 There are no specific partnership implications arising from this report. However the HGP is a key Strategic Partnership and the value is achieved from a collective approach to some of the significant issues in being able to influence national and international agendas.

8. Background to Haven Gateway Partnership

- 8.1 The Haven Gateway Partnership was launched in 2001. It is an economic development partnership and brings together the ports of Felixstowe, Harwich, Ipswich, Mistley and their surrounding hinterlands including the regional centres of Colchester and Ipswich. The area includes the southern part of Suffolk Coastal District, Babergh, Mid-Suffolk, Ipswich and Colchester Boroughs, Tendring and Braintree. In addition in 2011 Maldon District Council has joined the Partnership. The Haven Gateway contains the UK's largest container port at Felixstowe, Harwich port, BT Adastral Park, and overall in terms of new homes and jobs it is still one of the fastest growing areas in the UK.
- 8.2 The Haven Gateway is a formal "body" with its own constitution and terms of reference. Senior Members and officers, plus private sector partners attend the Board. It has a clear purpose, vision and values and detailed roles and responsibilities. Although the Partnership has no formal legal standing, Essex County Council is the accountable body for its activities which is managed through a Memorandum of Agreement.
- 8.3 Since the introduction of the Local Enterprise Partnerships and the demise of the regional structures the HGP has been in a period of 'transition' and has received Government Funding to support this transition. The future role of the HGP is currently under debate by all the Board Members.
- 8.4 Babergh's Elected Member representative on the HGP board is John Hinton supported by Lindsay Barker and officer representation on the Strategic Officers Group is Rich Cooke.

9. Key Information

- 9.1 **The Work of the Haven Gateway Partnership (HGP) Highlights for 2011/12 include:-**

The completion and closure of the Haven Gateway Growth Point programme; Support has been given to the last of the projects in the programme, to enable them to reach final claim stage by April 2012. These projects have included Sudbury Town Centre Regeneration and the Cultural Business Centre in Colchester. The programme is now closed.

- **Successful award of Transition Funding**

An award of £90,158 was secured from CLG to support the Partnership's Transition Plan 2011 to 2013. Further significant cost-cutting has taken place to deliver savings to partners.

Developing new initiatives and income streams, including:-

- **The Low Carbon Freight Dividend**

The Low Carbon Freight Dividend, supported with £3 million from the ERDF, was launched in March 2012. It aims to support small and medium sized businesses in choosing rail to move their freight; the target is to switch 30,000 containers from road to rail during the three-year life of the project.

- **Innovation Martlesham**

There are now some 40 technology companies based at the Innovation Martlesham cluster, ranging from small start-ups to large multinationals. The Ross Building ground floor opened in May 2011 and is now full; the refurbished first floor has been marketed from March 2012.

- **Smart Anglia**

Smart Anglia seeks to push forward the East Anglia region as a leading 'Smart region' by 2020. Smart Anglia connects the strong local presence of high-tech companies across East Anglia with the knowledge of our universities and colleges and the partnership of the public sector, to deliver smart technology solutions.

- **Rail Campaign**

HGP coordinated a 'Once in a Generation' rail campaign to secure maximum HGP benefit from the Rail Industry Review and long-term Greater Anglia refranchise.

- **Supporting the Essex Integrated County Strategy**

In particular, this has involved developing a pipeline of projects under the theme of the A120, which is being developed into a framework to stimulate economic growth along this important corridor. This work has also positioned two projects (University of Essex Knowledge Gateway and North Colchester Transport Improvements) to bid successfully for Growing Places funding from the South East LEP.

The key local outcomes are:-

- **Ipswich Policy Area**

Supporting the Ipswich Policy Area Member board, including support with LDF preparations, to develop a shared economic vision for the IPA and also to identify growth opportunities along the A14 corridor. The Partnership is acting as Secretariat for both the IPA member board and A14 sites study officer group, enabling the authorities to show how they have met the new 'Duty to Co-operate' and are working together to deliver economic growth in the area.

- **A14 Sites Study Group**

Again the HGP has acted as Secretariat to this group (taking over from Mid Suffolk which set up the group originally), allowing a strategic overview to be taken as to employment land supply issues along the A14 from Felixstowe to Bury St Edmunds. The HGP is hosting the results of assessment sheets prepared by the IPA authorities on its website and is working towards helping the County Council focus its inward investment efforts on this part of the A14 and port related growth opportunities. The former British Sugar Beet site at Sroughton, has been identified as a key priority site for development in the IPA area and to support the port of Felixstowe. The HGP continue to offer officer support with development discussions with land agent to bring the site forward.

- **Sudbury Town Centre and Brantham Industrial Site**

HGP continues to offer support to both these projects, including helping officers to maximise the use of remaining Growth Point funding up to the deadline for drawdown in March 2012.

- **Sudbury Town Centre**

Haven Gateway funding: £60,000.

The funding is to help the Council secure a high quality comprehensive re-development of this important area of Sudbury Town Centre. The Council adopted a development brief for the area in 2010. The aim is to create a mixed-user development featuring retail, leisure or other commercial uses.

The HGP continued support to further progress the brief included attending project team meetings, advising on the tender content and process selection, commenting on consultants reports resulting in the production of a comprehensive retail study for Sudbury, topography reports for Hamilton Road and concept visions for the redevelopment area.

The reports commissioned totalled £35,000 and now provide a valuable basis for discussions with developers or for future marketing of the Hamilton Road Quarter.

- **Brantham Industrial Site – Development Feasibility Study**

Haven Gateway funding: £70,000.

The industrial site is adjacent to the main railway line from Norwich to London. It is now mainly derelict with many of the old industrial buildings having been demolished.

To compliment earlier commissioned studies undertaken in conjunction with the developer, a Community Facilities and Local Economy Study was undertaken in 2012 funded by HGP. This adds to the existing flood risks, contamination, cost of reclamation, ecology and highways studies. All of which will help formulate the detailed development proposals.

- **Dryport Project**

The HGP has been supporting this European Union Project project in which Babergh was a core partner until its formal closure in June 2012.

10. Background Documents

10.1 Haven Gateway Annual Report 2011/12.

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