

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL and MIDSUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Strategic Director Place	Report Number: M165
To: Strategy	Date of meeting: 14 March 2013

FUTURE MEMBERSHIP OF THE HAVEN GATEWAY PARTNERSHIP

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Committee with the necessary information to enable a decision to be taken on the future membership of the Haven Gateway Partnership for Babergh District Council for 2013/14.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Babergh District Council remains a member of the Haven Gateway Partnership for 2013/14 and agrees to continue with the current membership contribution of £5,000.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The annual membership fee for 2012/13 was £5,000. It is proposed the level of funding for 2013/14 remains the same with no increase in this fee.

4. Risk Management

- 4.1 Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Inability to deliver on the Strategic Priorities around economic and housing growth	Med.	Med.	Working closely with the HGP enables a focus on key delivery opportunities around port related growth and the A14 corridor.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 The Haven Gateway Partnership has carried out consultation on its future role given the changing landscape around Local Enterprise Partnerships, the end of the transition funding awarded to it for the past 2 years and local growth ambitions. The outcome of this consultation is reflected in the recommendations in this report.

6. Equality Analysis

- 6.1 The Haven Gateway Partnership carries out its own equality impact analysis and ensures its programmes provide equal and fair access for all groups.

7. Shared Service / Partnership Implications

- 7.1 The Haven Gateway Partnership has been a key Strategic Partnership for many years and value has been achieved from a collective approach to some of the significant issues in being able to influence national and international agendas. The future of the Partnership is the subject of this report.
- 7.2 It should be noted that the Mid Suffolk intended position is the same as that of Babergh and a similar report with the same recommendation will also be taken to the Executive in Mid Suffolk on 11 March.

8. Key Information

- 8.1 By way of background 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 home 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 had 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.
- 8.4 In 2011 the HGP reviewed its future role and agreed a transition plan;
- "to support the transition from reliance on Growth Point funding to a range of new sources of funding to preserve the relationships, capacity and expertise to support the new organisational landscapes of LEPs and in particular engage the private sector and help the LEPs identify the most important priorities in the area."
- 8.5 A number of changes to the HGP were agreed by the Board. These included focussing on certain areas such as developing a framework for growth, the A120 and A14 corridors and the Ipswich Policy Area. They also included the deletion of the CEO post and the office manager post and a reduction in the Chair's stipend by 25%.
- 8.6 All members were asked to indicate their support for the continuation of the HGP and its future priorities at the HGP board meeting in January 2013.
- 8.7 All the Essex Authorities have indicated their continued support and some have increased their financial contribution. The HGP is seen as a key delivery partner for the South East LEP and a mechanism for the North of Essex authorities to work effectively together around port and logistics related growth.

- 8.8 Apart from the Port of Ipswich all the other partners including Hutchinson Ports, BT, the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce and the University of Essex have indicated their intention to remain members.
- 8.9 Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Borough Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council have all indicated their intention to pull out of being members of the HGP from April 2013 onwards. They have given their views that future support for the sectors involved in the HGP will come through the New Anglia LEP. Details of how this sector group will work are not yet available but will be shared as soon as they are developed.
- 8.10 The proposal for Babergh and Mid Suffolk's continued membership will comprise of continued support with lobbying and advocacy, the gathering of economic evidence, support for the delivery of our local economic outcomes and project delivery together with the continued opportunities from working across local authority boundaries with the North Essex authorities. The HGP will also continue to provide additional expertise to us on our significant land developments such as Brantham, Sproughton, Mill Lane and Chilton Leys.
- 8.11 The Annual HGP report to Overview and Scrutiny (Community Services) Committee considered the benefits of HGP membership through reviewing local outcomes, which included:
- 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
 - A strategic overview of the employment land supply issues along the A14 from Felixstowe to Bury St Edmunds
 - Supporting the Sudbury Town Centre and Brantham Industrial Site projects
 - Supporting the European Union Dryport Project
- 8.12 Consideration has been given to the position of the other Suffolk Authorities and the potential impact on the continuing membership of Babergh and Mid Suffolk and this will be the subject of a detailed discussion with the HGP in March. However, it should be noted that in the West of the County St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath work with the Cambridge and Peterborough LEP and an effective range of outward looking partnerships will be of benefit to the County as a whole.

Authorship:

Name Lindsay Barker
Job Title Strategic Director Place

Tel. 01473 825844/01449 724697
Email: lindsay.barker@babergh.gov.uk
lindsay.barker@midsuffolk.gov.uk