



Maximising resources in difficult times

This latest edition of Haven Headlines focuses on how we work together to maximise resources to the sub-region, and hence to the member authorities. One of the benefits of working as a sub-region is being able to consider market conditions and formulate strategic responses to the current difficult circumstances.

The Haven Gateway Partnership's consideration of infrastructure needs is featured in this edition, and there is an update on the sub-regional choice based lettings scheme 'Gateway to Homechoice' and its plans for an enhanced housing options service to customers. The Housing Corporation's move to 'continuous market engagement' to maximise opportunities in the market is also explained below.

Bidding for infrastructure

The Haven Gateway Partnership is launching its Integrated Development Programme in December at Colchester's new Community Stadium.

Over the past 9 months, the Haven Gateway Partnership has worked closely with the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), Government Office for the East of England and the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) and invested considerable time in developing their sub-regional investment programme – the Integrated Development Programme (IDP). This investment programme considers the infrastructure needed to support growth in a sustainable way, enhancing the exceptional quality of place found throughout the Haven Gateway. This work has formed much of the evidence base to their recent refreshed bid to government for further Growth Funding.

Whilst the publication of the IDP is a crucial milestone for the Partnership, it continues to be work in progress as issues like the credit crunch mean that the partnership has to be continually responsive to economic changes.

The Greater Haven Gateway is currently working with the Haven Gateway Partnership to develop a chapter for the IDP devoted to the provision of affordable housing. This will highlight both the importance we place on affordable housing, and also our closer working relationship we have with the Haven Gateway.

Useful links

(press control and click to follow link)

Babergh District Council

Braintree District Council

Colchester Borough Council

Ipswich Borough Council

Maldon District Council

Mid Suffolk District Council

Suffolk Coastal District Council

Tendring District Council

To see the Haven Gateway Partnership's website, please click [here](#).



Engaging with the market

The Housing Corporation have changed the way they allocate grant for affordable housing schemes. They have moved away from a 'one hit' bid round. After an initial bid round from which the GHG received over £10 million, the Housing Corporation held two 'regular market engagement' bid rounds. Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) bid for grants totalling £22,365,603 for schemes in the Greater Haven Gateway area. Grants totalling £6,466,837 were awarded.

To enable the Housing Corporation to respond even more flexibly to the market, they have introduced 'continuous market engagement'. This means that bids from RSLs or developers can be made at any time, with Local Authorities having a five day turnaround for their comments. Two initial bids have been considered by the GHG and we are awaiting results from the Housing Corporation.

Choice Based Lettings Update

It was reported in the last issue that the Greater Haven Gateway Choice Based Lettings Scheme was due to be delivered from end of November 2008 but unfortunately because of a delay in signing of contracts this date has now moved back until the end of January.

The project team is currently working on the configuration and development of the IT part of the scheme and will be asking all applicants to re-register from November onwards.

The logo has been chosen for the scheme, incorporating the Greater Haven Gateway's colours.



For further details please contact the Project Manager, Diane Foley on diane.foley@babergh.gov.uk

Enhanced Housing Options Bid

As an enhancement to the Choice Based Lettings project, the team made a bid to Government to be an 'Enhanced Housing Options' trailblazer. This would enable developments to the choice based lettings scheme to help tackle not just housing need, but also worklessness. The bid is for up to £240,000 to set up new services across the sub-region. The results will be announced in November.

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The Greater Haven Gateway (GHG) was established in 2004. It draws together the work of housing organisations in East Essex and East Suffolk. The GHG is led by the 8 councils involved but includes a much wider group of organisations, including housing associations, the Housing Corporation, Supporting People teams, EERA, The Rural Community Council, and Government Office East of England.
