

# ***News from Cambridgeshire County Council***

Date: 18 March 2010

## **MAKE A BEE-LINE TO SEE THE HIVE EDUCATION AND ENTERPRISE PARK PLANS**

Local residents and businesses are being encouraged to make a bee-line to see plans for a new multi-million pound education and enterprise park called the Hive.

What will make The Hive really different to other business parks is that its focus will be on business that's good for both society and the environment. It is being developed through an innovative partnership between Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge Regional College, local charity Citylife and the Building Research Establishment (BRE). It has also been part-funded by Housing Growth Fund money allocated by Cambridgeshire Horizons and its partners, and the East of England Development Agency.

The Hive will be home to three projects: SmartLIFE Low Carbon, SmartLIFE Eco homes Innovation Park and Citylife's Good Business Centre. The location is a 1.9 acre site off Kings Hedges Road between the Science Park and Orchard Park, and it is hoped the first facilities will open at the end of 2011. With the first early stage plans produced, the partners are encouraging local people to come to an exhibition to find out more.

Cambridgeshire County Councillor Tony Orgee, Cabinet Member for the Economy and the Environment believes the Hive will become an international centre of excellence.

He said: "There is no doubt that there is more and more demand for environmentally friendly technology and building methods. This new centre will put Cambridgeshire businesses and workers at the forefront both nationally and internationally of providing the facilities and skills to meet these needs. Not only will The Hive be good news for local employment but will be vital in reducing our carbon emissions and tackling climate change. I urge everyone to go and have a look and find out more about the plans and how they could benefit them."

An exhibition will be held on Monday, March 22, between 2pm and 8pm at Orchard Park, Community Centre, Ring Fort Road. Visitors will be able to talk to representatives from the organizations involved and learn more about the plans for the Hive.

To find out more, visit [www.talktothehive.org](http://www.talktothehive.org) or telephone 01223 715948.

## **ENDS**

### Notes for editors:

The Hive will be home to three projects: SmartLIFE Low Carbon, SmartLIFE Eco-homes Innovation Park and the Good Business Centre:

SmartLIFE Low Carbon is a joint venture between Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridge Regional College that will support businesses looking to adapt to a low carbon economy. It will also teach the workforce skills needed for building low carbon homes and installing renewable energy solutions. It will deliver new jobs and reduce the impact of CO2 locally. For more information from Cambridge Regional College contact Lara Jodin on 01223 418772.

SmartLIFE Eco-homes Innovation Park will showcase of the very latest in UK building design, construction, materials and components. An extraordinary community of four full-scale, and fully fitted out demonstration buildings, the Park will bring to life cutting-edge thinking in innovative and sustainable construction. It is a joint venture between Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge Regional College and the Building Research Establishment. For more information from BRE contact Jaya Skandamoorthy on 01923 664582.

Citylife's Good Business Centre will support social and environmental enterprises through business support and affordable incubation space. The vision is to create a business incubation centre with a difference – to grow businesses that do good for the community and the environment. For more information from Citylife contact Martin Clark or Phil Caroe on 01223 323481.

5th Studio is an award-winning design practice based in the UK, with studios in London and Cambridge. 5th Studio's portfolio spans across the fields of design, architecture, urbanism and landscape, from award-winning buildings to large-scale regeneration. A radical, innovative, can-do organisation, 5th Studio regard design as a catalyst for change - always balancing strategic thinking with a clear understanding of the particular conditions of each project and site.

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- Liberal Democrat spokes - Councillor Nichola Harrison: 01223 461636 or 07788 701901
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- Labour Councillor Tariq Sadiq: 07976 789006