

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

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## **THE HIVE, CREATING A BUZZ IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

Proposals for the first phase of a new multi-million pound education and enterprise park known as The Hive have been submitted to County Council planners.

The first building proposed is the SmartLIFE Low Carbon Centre which is a joint venture between Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridge Regional College, designed to support businesses looking to adapt to a low carbon economy.

The proposed new centre will teach the workforce skills needed for building low carbon homes and installing renewable energy systems. It will provide new jobs and reduce the impact of Co2 locally.

Subject to the planning process, it is hoped the facilities will open at the end of 2011 on a near two acre site on King's Hedges Road, Cambridge. The eco-excellent building is expected to cost £2 million.

Cambridgeshire County Council's SmartLIFE Director, David Arkell, said: "Over the next few months, local people will get the opportunity to see an exhibition about what is planned at The Hive and they will be consulted on the proposals before the planning application is considered by Councillors in late summer. Dates for the consultation and exhibition will be published in the local press and on The Hive's website: [talktothehive.org](http://talktothehive.org)

"What will make The Hive business park really different to other business parks is that its major focus will be on business that's good for both society and the environment."

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

The Hive will benefit the whole community, by working with:

- Professionals, technicians and businesses working in construction – designers, engineers, buildings, plumbers, electricians etc – who want to update their skills to adapt to a low-carbon economy.
- Young people looking for vocational training in modern, sustainable construction techniques
- Businesses set up to tackle a social or environmental need, and the people who create and run them
- Employers who need training or staff development for their staff.

## **ENDS**

### Notes for editors:

For further information, contact: Glenn Thwaites in the Communications Office on (01223) 699282.

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SmartLIFE Eco-homes Innovation Park will demonstrate both low carbon homes and lifestyles.

The Good Business Centre, a project by Cambridge-based charity Citylife, will support social and environmental enterprises through business support and affordable space for start-up companies to develop their ideas and business.

The Hive is an innovative partnership between Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge Regional College, Citylife and 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.

Up to £2.3 million has been funded by Cambridgeshire Horizons and EEDA has contributed £750,000 to the scheme through Citylife. About £1 million has come from Cambridge Regional College. The balance of the investment is from the private sector.