

20 June 2011

Press Release

ENERGY SECRETARY BACKS NEW SMARTLIFE CENTRE AT CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL COLLEGE

A pioneering project to teach low-carbon skills and qualifications at Cambridge Regional College has been praised in the House of Commons by Energy Secretary Chris Huhne.

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change told MPs that the new SmartLIFE Low Carbon Centre, due to open at the College in October, was an “exciting development”.

The minister, who visited the existing SmartLIFE Centre recently, was responding to a question by Cambridge MP Julian Huppert about his support for clean-tech industries.

“Earlier this year, I visited the SmartLIFE centre in Cambridge and met almost a dozen clean-tech companies. I was impressed not just by the pioneering technologies that one would expect from a city with Cambridge’s record on innovation, but by how these ideas are being turned into thriving businesses,” he said.

“I understand that the SmartLIFE Low-Carbon Centre is expanding this year to provide the skills and training facilities needed for low-carbon qualifications. It is an exciting development.”

The new SmartLIFE will be a centre for ‘green’ building technologies and is part of the Hive enterprise and education park – a joint venture between CRC, the County Council and Future Business.

It is the second time this month that the College's work has been praised in the House of Commons: 10 days ago, MP Julian Huppert spoke about the "excellent" support CRC provided to local companies.

Chris Lang, CRC's Director of Finance and Resources, said it was a great compliment to the College that its work and development projects were recognised at such a high level.

"We're delighted that our local MP Dr Huppert is so impressed by the work we do with employers and that the Minister has highlighted our exciting new SmartLIFE Low Carbon Centre in the House of Commons," he said.

"It is a big compliment to the work we do here and to our plans to expand our teaching of new, 'green' construction skills to our students who will build the houses of the future."

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest work-based learning contracts in the Eastern Region.