

10 September 2010

Press Release

## **CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL COLLEGE RECEIVES £1MILLION TO BOOST TEACHING RESOURCES**

Cambridge Regional College has received a major £1million boost in Government grants to enhance its teaching provision and help fund its planned SmartLIFE Low Carbon Centre, part of the innovative Hive project.

The College is one of just 21 nationally to receive the full £1million allocation from a £50 million funding pot announced by the Government to enhance further education provision.

The money comes in the form of two grants – part of it to be used towards building new classrooms on the College’s Science Park campus, and the bulk for the SmartLIFE Low Carbon Centre, where vital ‘green’ building skills and energy systems will be taught.

Cambridge Regional College Principal Rick Dearing said: “We are absolutely delighted to be one of the colleges chosen to receive grants of £1 million after successful bids to boost two important projects.

“Part of the funding will help pay for valuable extra teaching space, creating four new large classrooms in a building which used to house our motor vehicle department before its move to new purpose-built premises on our campus.

“The bulk of the money is a grant towards the costs of the planned SmartLIFE Low Carbon Centre, part of the Hive project, where we will teach the workforce skills needed for building low carbon homes and installing renewable energy systems.”

The College is one of nearly 150 to receive the smaller Renewal Grant, and one of just 21 colleges nationally to be awarded the higher Enhanced Renewal Grant. The new classrooms will be built next year, ready for September 2011.

“Vocational training is a real and growing alternative for a growing number of young people who want to learn the skills valued in the workplace,” said Rick. “These grants will help further enhance our provision for learners in the region following major investment in superb new facilities over the last two years.”

Announcing the grants, Business Secretary Vince Cable said there had been some “impressive bids” for “ambitious and innovative projects from colleges that are planning for the future”.

SmartLIFE Low Carbon is a joint venture between the College and Cambridgeshire County Council which will support businesses looking to adapt to a low carbon economy, delivering new jobs and reducing the impact of CO2 locally

Cambridgeshire County Council’s SmartLIFE Director, David Arkell, said: “SmartLIFE delivers skills and business development for low carbon living. This vital grant to the College is further government acknowledgement of our partnership which builds on the SmartLIFE success. The funding joins up with earlier support from EEDA and the cornerstone support from Cambridgeshire Horizons to bring about such a unique and exciting venture.”

It is part of The Hive, a planned multi-million pound education and enterprise park on nearly two acres of College land on King’s Hedges Road between the Science Park and Orchard Park.

The Hive will also be home to two other projects: Smart LIFE Eco-homes Innovation Park, designed to demonstrate both low and zero carbon homes, and Cambridge Charity City life’s Good Business Centre, providing business support and affordable space to start-up social and environmental enterprises.

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**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, PR & Events Co-ordinator, on 01223 418773 or email [loshea@camre.ac.uk](mailto:loshea@camre.ac.uk)

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has around 3,500 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.