



## **Norwich Research Park Development Brief Draft for Consultation 21 May to 29 June 2007 CONSULTATION STATEMENT.**

### **What is the Norwich Research Park Development Brief?**

South Norfolk Council have commissioned Land Use Consultants to write a Development Brief to guide and co-ordinate development on land allocated at the Norwich Research Park (NRP) in the South Norfolk Local Plan (2003). The NRP is an important part of the employment land framework for the Norwich Area. It provides land for the potential expansion of the various research institutions, the hospital and other amenities. The South Norfolk Local Plan makes a broad allocation of land but the Development Brief is intended to provide more detail about access, parking, design, layout and other features. The Development Brief will eventually be adopted by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), it will not form part of the Development Plan but will be a material consideration in determining planning applications at the NRP

### **Initial Consultation**

A Steering Group was set up to help in the writing of the Development Brief. The Steering Group was comprised of people with a direct interest in the area and the members were as follows:

- Roger Bond (University of East Anglia)
- Richard Hannay (Land Use Consultants)
- Dr Graham Martin (Colney Parish Meeting)
- James Boddy (Colney Hall)
- Ray Houghton/Mike Carpenter (Bidwells)
- Glyn Davies (Bidwells)
- Alan Gomm (South Norfolk Council)
- John Tomlinson (South Norfolk Council)
- Martin Lawton (South Norfolk Council)
- Martin Kemp (Colney Developments)
- Chris Leeming (Gable Developments for Mr Kemp)
- Dr Robin Daniels (BBSRC) (on behalf of Alan Giles & Reg Wilson)
- David Dukes (Norfolk County Council)
- Stephen Osborn (Norwich City Council)

In producing the draft Development Brief Land Use Consultants talked to all the above people. Other parties, such as Norfolk County Council Highways were also directly involved in initial discussions.

Presentations on aspects of the draft Brief, as it was being prepared, were also given to a Vision Group comprising Local Authorities and invited landowners/organisations with an interest in the wider development of the NRP.

The finished draft Brief was presented to the Steering Group at a meeting on 7th February 2007, prior to this current period of public consultation. Steering Group members raised some issues at this stage. Some of which have been incorporated into the draft Brief and others have been carried forward and will be incorporated into the final version.

## **Main Issues Raised**

Responses from Steering Group members following the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February raised some important issues: Initial feedback on the document was positive although some comments were made, which included:

- The way of expressing the extent of the developable area at Colney Hall
- The phasing of development in the core area, businesses may want to locate as near to the UEA as possible, but phase one is shown at the opposite end of the allocation to facilitate road improvements
- Public transport links to the UEA and the city
- The nature of potential uses which could be allowed on the NRP

## **Sustainability Appraisal**

The Development Brief has been subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The Council consulted on an initial SA Scoping Report in July 2006, which was reported back to Cabinet and agreed in April 2007. The Scoping Report was sent to statutory consultees for their comments and was available on the Councils website for public comment.

A full SA (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) and Habitat Regulations Assessment have now been produced. The SA looks at various options for the NRP and has helped to inform the options chosen for the draft Brief. The SA is currently out for public consultation alongside the draft Development Brief.

## **Current Consultation**

South Norfolk Council are currently undertaking a public consultation on the draft Development Brief and accompanying SA and Habitat Regulations Assessment. The consultation period runs for 6 weeks from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Full copies of all relevant documents have been placed at local Council offices and libraries and are also available on the Councils website. There has been a press notice in the local newspaper giving the dates of the consultation and the places where people can view the documents.

Full copies of all documents have been sent to bodies such as Go-East, EERA, EEDA, major utilities companies and the Highways Agency. Various other bodies have received a copy of the draft Brief and a letter telling them that the SA is available online. In the interests of informing as many people as possible the Council have also posted out a number of summary leaflets and letters to local agents and relevant local groups. We also extracted the names and addresses of local residents living in the vicinity of the NRP from our Local Development Framework database and sent them a letter explaining about the consultation and directing them to the Council website.

The Council are promoting the draft Brief through a series of 4 exhibitions at venues in and around the Norwich Research Park, which have been publicised by letter and posters. One-to-one meetings are booked with the main players from institutions in and surrounding the NRP and it is also planned to hold a facilitated workshop.

## **The Way Forward**

The Development Brief will eventually be adopted by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document and will be used when making decisions on planning applications at the NRP. Comments from this current public consultation and any earlier comments received will be carefully considered by the Council and incorporated into the Brief where appropriate. Comments received to the consultation will be collated and published on the Councils website. It is hoped that the Development Brief will be adopted by the end of 2007.