

areas and information from on the ground. The Local Economy Team works closely with local business groups to support local businesses.

**Supporting knowledge-based businesses** - The council is also a key player in a local strategy to develop more knowledge-based industries in the district. It supports the Canterbury Enterprise Hub (based at The University of Kent), which works with highly innovative and high growth potential start-ups to increase their survival rates. It is also working with the University of Kent and South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) to develop the Canterbury Business Innovation Centre (due 2009) at the University of Kent's Beverley Farm site on its Canterbury campus. Phase 1 of this project, will provide incubator accommodation including offices, workshops and laboratories as well as on-site business support for new science and technology businesses from the Canterbury Enterprise Hub. At the same time the council has secured the allocation of a 20 hectare science and technology business park at Little Barton Farm in Canterbury, which will accommodate the growth of the district's knowledge-based businesses together with attracting new investment to the area.

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## C4B Environment Sub Group

A key focus and coordinator of business/environment activities in the district is Canterbury 4 Business' Environment sub-group. This meets bi-monthly, comprises 27 C4B associate members, including businesses, local colleges and universities.

The aim of the group is to provide C4B Associates with access to a range of guidance on environmental issues likely to impact on their business to include:

- Alerting businesses to existing sources of help and information;
- Illustrating the potential advantages to be gained by making businesses "environmentally responsible" (e.g. staff engagement, healthier employees, saving money, competitive advantage etc);
- Providing case studies on local businesses and sample policies (e.g. environmental policies, car sharing agreements, energy saving procedures etc);
- Facilitating two-way communication with the Council regarding its business related initiatives on environmental issues (to include transport and travel plans);
- Raising awareness generally on environmental issues within the Canterbury district;
- Developing closer links to other similar groups such as the Kent Sustainable Business Partnership (KSBP).

Currently the group is involved with several projects with the city council and is organising a series of business and environmental events for 2008.

[www.canterbury4business.co.uk](http://www.canterbury4business.co.uk) ►



Lakesview Enterprise Centre



Picture courtesy of Kent County Council