

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Over £8 million awarded to University of Chichester to kick-start transformation of its Bognor Regis Campus**

**1 October 2009**

The University of Chichester has been awarded more than £8 million of funding to kick-start the major transformation of its Bognor Regis Campus in West Sussex as the first stage of a £30 million re-development programme over the next 10 years.

SEEDA, the South East England Development Agency has invested £2 million and a further £6 million has been granted by HEFCE, the Higher Education Funding Council for England. West Sussex County Council through the West Sussex Economic, Skills and Enterprise Board has contributed £50,000 and the University itself is committing over £5 million over the next three years. The £30 million investment programme will include a creative and cultural industries facility and new student residences.

The funds will go towards a major internal refurbishment of The Dome, which dates back to the 1780s and is one of the most historic buildings in Bognor Regis. The building will become an iconic centre for business which will house the University's SEMAL division (School of Enterprise, Management and Leadership). The refurbished Dome will be home to a café, wi-fi facilities, informal and formal meeting spaces and a lecture theatre. The building will be accessible to the community and a major support to business. In addition, eight enterprise incubator units will be created on the campus to develop new high-value businesses. The funding will also contribute to a new state-of-the-art Learning Resource Centre and Student Support Facility.

The new business school will give students the skills and support to help economic recovery, either by creating new businesses or gaining the high level qualifications a successful economy needs. It will also help to regenerate the coastal West Sussex economy not just by creating jobs at the university but by attracting more students whose extra spending power will stimulate local businesses and encourage them to expand.

Dr Robin Baker, University of Chichester Vice-Chancellor: "We are very grateful for this very generous support from SEEDA which, together with a hugely significant £6 million grant from HEFCE and help from many other local partners, means that the University will be able to achieve its ambition to create a 'Regeneration Campus' at Bognor Regis. The campus will become a catalyst for education-led economic and social regeneration on the West Sussex coast. It will also make a major contribution to the social and cultural environment of the town itself."

Paul Lovejoy SEEDA's Executive Director for Strategy and Communications: "We are delighted to be jointly investing with HEFCE and the University of Chichester

in the Bognor Regis campus. It will make an important contribution to improving the economic performance of the West Sussex coast. It will strengthen links with local businesses helping them to weather the recession and emerge ready to take advantage of the upturn.”

The project has attracted the support of local businesses such as Butlins and Rolls Royce.

Tom Purves, Chief Executive of Rolls Royce: "The University plans for expansion and its deepening offer to business has my full support. I have no doubt the 'Regeneration Campus' will be an engine for wealth creation on the West Sussex coast and will contribute to the knowledge base on which Rolls Royce depends.

Deborah Urquhart, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment and Economy: “This will help the regeneration of Bognor Regis and make an important economic contribution to the skills base that will help our business sector and ultimately create more jobs.”

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#### Notes to Editors

- **\*£30 million redevelopment package**  
This is the first stage of a £30 million redevelopment programme over the next 10 years which will include a creative and cultural industries facility and new student residences.
- **Hothampton Crescent, including the Dome**, was built in 1793 and was specifically developed as a holiday retreat for the Royal family. The only member of the Royal family to visit Bognor Regis was Princess Charlotte (daughter of King George IV), who as a young girl enjoyed coming to Bognor Regis for her summer holidays.
- **HE and Student contribution to the economy**  
Students spend an average of £8,555 per annum in their local community\* Source: London South Bank University. Higher education is now recognised as a major contributor to the national and regional economy.
- The **University of Chichester** traces its HE origins back to 1839 and was awarded full university status 2005. It has campuses in Chichester and Bognor Regis and has over 5,000 students and 400 members of staff.  
The University consistently ranked highly as one of the top modern universities in the country. It was voted the top modern university in the country for all-round student experience in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2009. For the National Student Surveys in 2008 and 2009 it was ranked the top modern university for student satisfaction.
- **SEEDA, the South East England Development Agency**, is the Government-funded agency responsible for the sustainable economic development of the South East of England – the driving force of the UK’s economy. Through supporting businesses, encouraging innovation, developing skills and engaging with public and private partners, we aim to create a successful, sustainable future for the region.
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