

## News release from The Co-operative Group

### ECO-TOWN 'REFINED OPTION' PUT TO GOVERNMENT

The Co-operative Group and English Partnerships have submitted a “refined layout option” for their proposed eco-town for Leicestershire to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The Department has requested this indicative plan to enable it to carry out financial and sustainability studies.

The refined option is based upon the ‘Compact’ layout – a design proposal which concentrates development within the core of the site and provides a large open area of farmland and countryside around the town. The Compact is one of three potential layouts published for feedback via the eco-town website.

Lynda Shillaw, Managing Director of The Co-operative Estates, said that this design was chosen on the basis of feedback both from the public and the organisation’s own technical studies to date. But she stressed that the proposals would continue to evolve and that the two other eco-town designs put forward – Network and Archipelago – were still up for discussion. A detailed layout for the eco-town will be submitted to the Government before the end of August, along with further technical studies. There will then be a second full phase of consultation from September.

Lynda Shillaw commented: “We are determined that the detailed layout plan should take on board comments from as wide a range of local communities and groups as possible. This is a long-term plan for the area which will put Leicestershire at the forefront of global sustainable development. It’s important we take on as many local views as possible.”

More information on the Group’s proposals is available on the consultation website at **[www.ecotownforleicestershire.coop](http://www.ecotownforleicestershire.coop)**

The Group is partnering with English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency, on the project. English Partnerships owns a proportion of the total landholdings covered by the eco-town submission.

**end**

#### Notes to editors:

1. Further background on the Co-operative Group is available at [www.co-operative.coop](http://www.co-operative.coop).
2. Other useful websites with information about sustainable communities include:  
The Town and Country Planning Association  
<http://www.tcpa.org.uk/>  
The Academy for Sustainable Communities

<http://www.ascskills.org.uk/pages/home>

The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment

<http://www.princes-foundation.org/>

3. The Group is an acknowledged leader in sustainable development. Voted Britain's most ethical brand in 2006, we have also received the Queen's Award for Enterprise in Sustainable Development, the Renewable Energy Association's Pioneer Award and Business Commitment to the Environment's Peter Parker Award for Environmental Leadership.
4. English Partnerships is the national regeneration agency, supporting high quality sustainable growth in England. A non-departmental public body, it is sponsored by the Communities and Local Government department (CLG). English Partnerships owns around 80 hectares of land to the south of Great Glen which is included in the proposals.
5. Midlands Co-operative Society, which operates stores in the Leicester area, is an independent Co-operative business, which is not involved in the eco-town proposal.

**For further information contact:**

**Ben Copithorne, Paul Browne or Tom Pienaar  
Camargue PR**

**Tel: 0207 636 7366**

**Phil Edwards  
PR Manager – Specialist Retail  
The Co-operative Group**

**Tel: 0161 827 5289 (24 hours)**

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