

## **Hawkins\Brown team wins competition for design team for £1bn Begbroke Innovation District**

**\*\*\* Wednesday 6 April 2022\*\*\***

Oxford University Development, a £4bn joint venture between the University of Oxford and Legal & General Capital, today announces the winner of the international design competition to find a creative, forward-thinking masterplan team for its world-leading £1billion, 190-hectare mixed-use Innovation District at Begbroke Science Park, just to the north of Oxford.

A team led by **Hawkins\Brown** has been successful amongst an extremely competitive field of 40 submissions. The winner was selected following a rigorous assessment process and review of proposals by the project team, a technical panel and a jury panel supported by specialist advisers.

Hawkins\Brown demonstrated design flair through strong leadership, a collaborative approach and cross-sector expertise that resulted in a fresh approach to the new Innovation District. The jury found the winning team had balanced the need for delivery, design, attention to phasing and the evolution of the place. The team offered a very strong response to the design challenge, proposed creative integration of different uses, as well as sensitive consideration of existing communities and those who will come to use the spaces.

Hawkins\Brown's team comprised OKRA (Netherlands), BuroHappold and C:Lab, RCKa, Ooze (Netherlands), and Murray Twohig.

The team is a well-balanced blend of established, international, large and small practices who will bring fresh perspectives to the growth of an innovation district of international standing.

### **Anna Strongman, CEO, Oxford University Development, said:**

*"We're thrilled to have found a stellar team that will work with us to design a masterplan that responds to Oxford's housing needs and propels the economic attraction of the new centre as an exemplary place to live, work, and foster innovation and enterprise. We look forward to working with the councils and surrounding communities to deliver benefits for local people as well as compete on the global stage"*

### **Darryl Chen, Urban Design lead at Hawkins\Brown, said:**

*"This is one of those rare opportunities to set an agenda for a type of place that doesn't quite yet exist. Begbroke will see new homes and space for science set within a semi-rural location driven by clients with a long-term outlook. We're super-happy that Oxford University Development have selected our team of spiky talents to work with them. We're going to give it our all!"*

The competition was focused on finding the right team to develop a masterplan with Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and surrounding local communities. Hawkins Brown will set the bold ambition and design intent for a project that will transform the area around the University's Begbroke Science Park, to the north of Oxford. The project will also create a community of up to 2,000 quality homes, with new schools, public park and nature reserve.

OU Development's aspiration is to create a boundary-pushing scheme that demonstrably achieves a step-change in sustainable design, delivery, and operation. The new district will seek to attract the very best minds, while driving economic growth, improving transport connections, delivering benefits for local people, as well as enhancing the surrounding natural landscape. The site will provide an

exemplary new setting for the University's world-leading science and innovation, which will help address key global challenges facing humanity - from food security and biodiversity to climate change and the urgent need to move to a zero-carbon economy alongside seeking to reduce health inequity.

The competition was managed by Colander Associates and Turner & Townsend. The results can be viewed online at: [www.colander.co.uk/journal/begbroke-competition-entries](http://www.colander.co.uk/journal/begbroke-competition-entries)

## **ENDS**

### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

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#### **About the winner:**

- **Lead Consultant: Hawkins Brown**

OKRA (Netherlands); BuroHappold and C:Lab; RCKa; Ooze (Netherlands); Ecological Land Cooperative; Wordsearch Place

#### **About Oxford University Development**

In June 2019, a major new partnership was announced between the University of Oxford and Legal & General Group plc. This partnership will enable the University to move forward with its commitments to address the high cost of accommodation for staff and students and to develop innovation districts. A number of sites (of which Begbroke is one) have been identified for redevelopment by Oxford University and Legal & General have committed c.£4billion of funding. The partnership has created a joint venture company, Oxford University Development Limited, to act as its development manager.

#### **Site background:**

In 2015, a strategic masterplan for Begbroke was developed which included the expansion of the Science Park from 4 to 18 hectares alongside new residential accommodation and associated infrastructure. This masterplan evolved into the Begbroke Design Concept, which was submitted by the University to Cherwell District Council's Local Plan Review in October 2017.

OU's plans are underpinned by an allocation in Cherwell District Council's adopted Local Plan. The allocation seeks to deliver a high-quality mixed-use development, comprising a range of research & development, commercial, residential, university accommodation, and associated social and physical infrastructure uses, such as schools, local centres, amenity space and recreation/leisure uses, as well as excellent connectivity to the City of Oxford by sustainable means.

#### **About the University of Oxford**

Oxford University has been placed number 1 in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings for the sixth year running, and at the heart of this success is our ground-breaking research and innovation.

Oxford is world-famous for research excellence and home to some of the most talented people from across the globe. Our work helps the lives of millions, solving real-world problems through a huge network of partnerships and collaborations. The breadth and interdisciplinary nature of our research sparks imaginative and inventive insights and solutions.

Through its research commercialisation arm, Oxford University Innovation, Oxford is the highest university patent filer in the UK and is ranked first in the UK for university spinouts, having created more than 200 new companies since 1988. Over a third of these companies have been created in the past three years.

### **Legal & General Capital**

Legal & General Capital (LGC) is Legal & General Group's alternative asset platform, creating assets for Legal & General Retirement and third-party clients in order to achieve improved risk-adjusted returns for our shareholders. Investing in the real economy and creating alternative assets that deliver a tangible societal impact, its purpose is to invest society's capital for society's benefit.

LGC's investments include residential property; specialist commercial real estate; clean energy; alternative credit; and venture capital. L&G has invested over £30bn in levelling-up regional economies, including through major regeneration schemes across the UK. Legal & General recently made a commitment to enable all new homes across its portfolio to operate at net zero carbon emissions by 2030, including Legal & General Modular Homes, CALA Group, Legal & General Affordable Homes, Build to Rent and Later Living.