

PROPOSED BULLINGDON IMMIGRATION REMOVAL CENTRE

The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) is proposing to build an Immigration Removal Centre at site A, DSDC Bicester

Introduction & Background

The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA), an executive agency of the Home Office, is proposing to build a new, secure, Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) on former MoD land known as Site A, DSDC, Bicester (diagonally across the B4011 from HMP Bullingdon).

The Government is committed to a policy of a fair and robust immigration system that: allows those who have a legitimate reason to remain in the UK and; to have procedures in place to remove those not entitled to remain.

Expanding the number of removal centres is a crucial part of UKBA's plans to increase the rate

of removal of failed asylum seekers, illegal immigrants and also allowing the fast removal of those who come to the UK and break the rules. The development of an IRC at Bullingdon, which fits into a national network of such facilities, will play a key role in delivering the Government's immigration policies.

UKBA acknowledge that the plans for an Accommodation Centre on the site were not supported by the local communities surrounding the site due to, amongst other things, concerns around fear of crime. **An IRC is a secure facility based on prison designs. Unlike the arrangements for the Accommodation Centre detainees are unable to leave the IRC of their own accord.**

PERSPECTIVE VIEW ACROSS SITE



What is proposed?

- A secure IRC of 350,000 sq ft
- The centre will provide up to 800 beds, principally for single males but with the capability of converting a wing of the accommodation for single females. UKBA do not intend to detain families with children
- Detainees will be a mix of illegal immigrants and failed asylum seekers scheduled for removal from the UK as well as former foreign prisoners released from prison and awaiting deportation
- Healthcare will be provided within the IRC
- The IRC will be managed by approximately 488 staff on a 3 shifts a day pattern

Design and layout

- Design and security identical to a Category C prison
- IRC secured by a 5.2m security fence – detainees are not able to leave the Centre during their detention
- The layout and design of the buildings will be as low-key as possible. The buildings are 3 storeys, ranging in height from 16.24m to the top of the ridge of the main wings and 3.45m for the Visitors' Centre. It is proposed to be of Cotswold stone coloured brick with pitched roofs
- Retention of landscaping and new planting will provide good visual screening of the buildings from the surrounding area
- On-site lighting will not cause a nuisance due to careful design and use of light fittings that directs light downwards rather than upwards or horizontally into the sky. A lighting strategy will be a condition of any planning permission and will need to be agreed with Cherwell District Council

Highways

- The IRC will be a year-round, all day operation
- Access to the development will be provided from the B4011
- Detailed traffic surveys have been undertaken, with 15 junctions being assessed and a full Transport Assessment will accompany the planning application
- The 24 hour nature of the site means that traffic movements will be spread throughout the day and shift changeovers take place outside the morning or evening peak time
- A Green Travel Plan will be established to encourage staff and visitors to use public transport e.g. Bicester North Station where a mini-bus will collect people coming to the IRC

Timetable

Following public consultation it is proposed to submit a detailed planning application to Cherwell District Council by the end of 2008.

If planning permission is granted, work would begin on site in the late summer of 2009 and UKBA would open the IRC in early 2012.

Your views count

Let us know what you think about the proposed IRC. Please write to us at **FREEPOST COMMUNITY CONNECT** (no stamp required).

