

# Ashford scheme targets energy skills

Plans for a zero-emission development that would encourage energy efficiency skills among local people are to be submitted to Ashford Borough Council.

ZED Homes is due to lodge an application on Monday for a multi-million pound scheme to transform the derelict former Powergen site on the southern edge of Ashford town centre.

The developer, which owns the brownfield site near Victoria Park, aims to create an environmentally sensitive scheme featuring a biofuel combined heat and power plant, solar panels, water



**Ashford ZED: scheme features combined heat and power plant**

conservation and wind turbines.

The project would also involve setting up a learning institute on site to teach sustainable living and provide training for operating

some of the technologies. The scheme aims to create 250 jobs during construction and around 500 jobs once completed.

The Ashford ZED development

would create up to 1,000 flats, around 10,000m<sup>2</sup> of commercial, retail, education and leisure space and a car park.

ZED Homes spokeswoman Ameeta Sharma said the company is looking to create a landmark development. "We see this as a gateway to Europe. When people come out of Ashford International station, our site is the first you can see," she said.

"Nothing has really happened in Ashford since the government designated it a growth area. It deserves to be made more high-profile," she added.