

**RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION TAKEN BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

This form **MUST** be used to record any decision taken by the Elected Mayor or an individual Executive Member (Portfolio Holder).  
 The form must be completed and passed to the Chief Officer Legal and Democratic Services no later than NOON on the second working day after the day on which the decision is taken. No action may be taken to implement the decision(s) recorded on this form until 7 days have passed and the Chief Officer Legal and Democratic Services has confirmed the decision has not been called in.

**1. Description of decision**

To approve funding from the Mayor’s Climate Change Fund for an application from Kempston Park Indoor Bowls Club 290 Hillgrounds Road, Kempston, Bedford MK42 8UB to fund the installation of wall and loft insulation, in the sum of £16,000 for the reasons set out in this report.

**2. Date of decision**

12<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**3. Reasons for decision**

To allow a qualifying project that meets the funding criteria to be funded which will contribute to reducing the overall carbon emissions in the Borough.

**4. Alternatives considered and rejected**

Not to fund this application - If the Council does not strive to help the communities of the Borough to reduce their energy consumption it may have a negative impact on the Council’s reputation and its ability to reach future government set targets.

**5. How decision is to be funded**

The Mayor’s Climate Change Fund budget is £0.600m. Funding is currently available to cover the application detailed in the report, which is £16,000.

**6. Conflicts of interest**

Name of all Executive members who were consulted AND declared a conflict of interest.	Nature of interest	Did Standards Committee give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (If yes, give details and date of dispensation)	Did the Chief Executive give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (If yes, give details and the date of the dispensation).

The Mayor has been consulted on this decision

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*Tom Wootton*

Signed ..... Date ...12<sup>th</sup> May 2023... ..Name of Decision Taker ...Tom Wootton, Mayor.....

**This is a public document. A copy of it must be given to the Chief Officer Legal and Democratic Services as soon as it is completed.**

**Date decision published: ...12 May 2023 .....**

**Date decision can be implemented if not called in: ...24 May 2023.....**

**(Decision to be made exempt from call in.....NO.....)**

**Bedford Borough Council – Report to the Mayor**

**Date: 12 May 2023**

**Report by: Chief Officer Environment**

**Subject: Mayor’s Climate Change Fund project application from Kempston Indoor Bowls Club, 290 Hillgrounds Road, Kempston MK42 8UB**

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1 This report provides details on an application for funding to the Climate Change Fund from Kempston Indoor Bowls Club and recommends approval of the funding towards the project.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the Mayor considers, and if satisfied, agrees to:

- To approve funding from the Mayor’s Climate Change Fund for an application from Kempston Indoor Bowls Club to fund the installation of loft and wall insulation, in the sum of £16,000 for the reasons set out in this report.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 To allow a qualifying project that meets the funding criteria to be funded which will contribute to reducing the overall carbon emissions in the Borough.

**4. IMPLICATIONS**

Legal Issues

- 4.1 The General Power of Competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the Council with the powers necessary to undertake its climate change objectives.

The Climate Change Act commits the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050. The 100% target was based on advice from the Climate Change Committee's 2019 report, 'Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming'.

The Council owns the freehold interest in the property and it is leased to the Kempston Park Indoor Bowls Club for a term of 25 years from 1 April 2014. The tenant must not make alterations to the property without the landlord's consent, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld. The club will, therefore, require formal consent to complete these works.

### Policy Issues

- 4.2 The Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2026, vision of the period of this Plan is:

- *We want Bedford Borough to thrive as a place, that people are proud of, want to live in and move to. To do this we need a growing and strong local economy and an active response to climate change. From this foundation our residents will be able to thrive and realise their potential, supporting and celebrating our diverse and inclusive communities.*

- 4.3 Cross-Cutting Theme - Climate Change Emergency – to deliver what we need to do across all our services to address climate change.

Sustainable Development and Environment Efficiency Strategy:

#### Priority 1: Demonstrating Community Leadership

- Support local communities to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions
- Support schools/academies in the Borough to reduce their energy and water use

#### Priority 2: Building Community Resilience

- Support local communities to help them become resilient to the impacts of climate change
- Support the installation of low carbon buildings and communities within new and existing developments

## Resource Implications

- 4.4 The Mayor's Climate Change Fund budget for 2023/24 is £600,000 and full funding is currently available to cover the application detailed in the report, which is £16,000. The Climate Change Fund is revenue funded and therefore it is necessary to have all the works completed and invoices received by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The Climate Change Fund was established to help communities in the Borough to reduce the use of fossil fuels, which will result in a reduction in carbon emissions and will promote and improve energy efficiency in the Borough.

## Risk Implications

- 4.5 If the Council does not strive to help the communities of the Borough to reduce their energy consumption and encourage them to generate energy from renewable sources, it may have a negative impact on the Council's reputation and its ability to reach government set targets.

## Environmental implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Council by 2030

- 4.6 Encouraging communities to help reduce their carbon footprint will help mitigate the impacts of climate change. An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) was commissioned in January 2023. The insulation works proposed by the club are recommended in the EPC.

## Equalities Impact

- 4.7 In preparing this report, due consideration has been given to the Borough Council's statutory Equality Duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, as set out in Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010.

In operating the Climate Change Fund the Council recognises the need to ensure that all residents and organisations of the borough are able to access information on the fund. The fund has been promoted through press articles, presentations and the council's website: [www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk). Those interested in the application process can email their interest to [climatechangefund@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:climatechangefund@bedford.gov.uk)

## **5. DETAILS**

- 5.1 The Mayor's Climate Change Fund is a Council grant funded scheme that aims to support projects that improve community buildings, contribute to the reduction of the carbon emissions within the Borough, and thus contribute towards national reduction targets.

The fund is open to voluntary and community groups, not-for-profit organisations, registered charities, public sector including schools and parish councils, and social enterprises. It covers projects such as: insulation measures, upgrading of heating systems, installation of low energy lighting and other of renewable technologies.

The maximum level of grant, which can be applied for from the fund, is £20,000. All monies must be spent within 12 months of an offer being made and within the financial year, that approval was given. Importantly, as a demonstration of commitment, applicants will need to provide match funding of at least 50% of the total project cost from other sources.

It is a requirement of the criteria that groups have a legal status, terms of reference and a bank account. Projects must be located within the Borough boundary. Private businesses and individual households & groups of houses are not eligible.

## 5.2 Details of Funding Application: Kempston Indoor Bowls Club

Kempston Indoor Bowls Club is a community asset being a sports and social facility open to all in Kempston and the surrounding villages. They have more than 615 members who come from as far afield as Newport Pagnell to the north and Shefford to the south. The members come to pay bowls and to use the social facilities because of the friendly and welcoming atmosphere they advise the club offers them. They have a Wheelchair and Downs Syndrome group as well as a Tibbs Dementia Group extending the opportunity for their members to play a game of bowls whilst their carers enjoy a respite and a chat with others along with a lunch if they wish. They also have an active craft group and snooker group. With the rise in heating costs, the members can come to the club and enjoy a warm and welcoming atmosphere without the worry of how to pay for keeping warm. It is, for this reason, they want to improve the club's insulation levels.

In 2017 the club invested in an air source heat pump system, where they benefitted from a reduction in heating costs. It also provided them with greater individual control of the different areas of the club. At the same time, they removed the existing fluorescent lighting system that operated throughout the club. Replacing them with low energy LED lighting which provided much better lighting and lowered their carbon emissions due to reduced electricity consumption from the new LED lights. The latest EPC recommendations were to improve insulation to the building.

The wall of the building which encloses the bowling rink on three sides is a metal "skin" with a minimal inner wall covering which is painted. Similarly, there is no insulation over the suspended ceiling throughout the premises. The bowls area must be heated and maintained at 19.5-20.0 centigrade. The social area is heated to 21.5 centigrade. To achieve and maintain these levels at the same or a lower cost, the advice is to insulate the roofing void plus insulate the walls.

The suppliers have estimated they can expect a 25% reduction in energy consumption which equates to a saving of around £6748 equalling a reduction of approximately 26000kwh usage per annum with a payback of circa 7 years, from the planned project of the insulation to the ceiling and the wall insulation. This is equal to around 6.7t co2e.

It is confirmed that the applicant meets the criteria for an award set out in paragraph 5.1 above in that the project:

(a) aims to improve a community building

\*(6)

- (b) installs renewable technologies
- (c) contributes to the reduction of the carbon emissions within the Borough
- (d) achieves energy and emission savings for a large number of community groups and residents that use the centre and the wider Borough in general.

## 6. **SUMMARY OF CONSULTATIONS AND OUTCOME**

The following Council Units or Officers and/or other organisations have been consulted in preparing this report:

Deputy Mayor & Portfolio Holder for Environment, Highways and Transport  
Director of Environment – Craig Austin  
Carbon, Energy Team – Claire Wilkinson  
Chief Officer for Finance – Jill Evans  
Chief Officer Legal, Performance and Democratic – Margaret Martinus  
Manager for Asset and Estate Management – Margaret Birtles

No adverse comments have been received.

*Report Contact Officer:* Paul Pace – Chief Officer Environment, [paul.pace@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:paul.pace@bedford.gov.uk) ext. 47275  
Claire Wilkinson – Energy and Water Technical Officer  
[Claire.wilkinson@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.wilkinson@bedford.gov.uk)

*File Reference:* I: Environment/Committees/Reports/Decisions

*Previous Relevant Minutes:* None

*Background Papers:* None

*Appendices:* None