

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, Performance 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 Rovers Community Football Club to fund the installation of replacement external LED lighting, in the sum of £20,000 for the reasons set out in this report.

2. Date of decision

10 August 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 £0.400m for 2023/24. Funding is currently available to cover the application detailed in the report, which is £20,000.

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

yes

Signed *Tom Wootton* Date10/08/2023.....Name of Decision TakerMayor, Tom Wootton.....

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

Date decision published: ...11 August 2023.....

Date decision can be implemented if not called in:22 August 2023.....

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

Bedford Borough Council – Report to the Mayor

Date: 10 August 2023

Report by: Chief Officer Environment

Subject: Mayor’s Climate Change Fund project application from Kempston Rovers Community Football Club

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides details on an application for funding to the Climate Change Fund from Kempston Rovers Community Football 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 Rovers Community Football Club to fund the installation of external LED lighting, in the sum of £20,000 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'.

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 £400,000 and full funding is currently available to cover the application detailed in the report, which is £20,000. The Climate Change Fund is revenue funded and therefore it is necessary to have all the works completed and invoices received by 31st 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 December 2022. However, the works proposed are for external lighting upgrades which would not have features in the recommendations for the building.

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. Those interested in the application process can email their interest to 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 Rovers Community Football Club

Kempston Rovers Community Football Club is a community asset, owned by Community Benefit Society and provides the venue and pitches for local football clubs.

Following investment funding from the Football Foundation, Kempston Rovers are relaying the pitch 2 carpet and constructing a new 3rd pitch. As part of this project, the Climate Change Fund will match fund the upgrade of existing lighting from Halogen lights to LED on pitches 1 & 2.

It is recommended that the fund does not provide funding for new LED lighting columns on pitch 3 as this is not a replacement, or energy efficiency measure that meets the criteria of the fund – i.e. it is a new fixture.

The replacement of the Halogen bulbs from the existing floodlight columns will reduce the club’s electricity costs and consumption by 50% on pitch 1 and 25% on pitch 2. LED lighting is also brighter than halogen, lasts longer and will improve the experience of the players.

Pitch 1			Pitch 2		
Current	Replace		Current	Replace	
8x 2000W	8x1006 W		12x2000W	12x1500W	
16kW	8kW	50% saving	24kW	18kW	25% Saving

Re-head and upgrade existing to LED	£49,880.84
Upgrade cabling	£2,606.52
Install amenity light and ducting	£2,823.74
Total	£55,311.10
Total CCF grant	£20,000

Type of Energy	Total units pre-project kWh	Total Units saved kWh	Carbon Emissions Factor (Kg)	Total Kg of Carbon Saved	Tonnes of Carbon Saved
Electricity	98,732	34,556	0.2556	8,832.6	8.83

<u>Energy savings and Payback</u>						
Type of Energy	Unit Rate	Kwh saved	Total £ saved	Project cost	£ savings	Project payback
Electricity	0.1448	34,556	£5,003.74	£60,292.52	£5,003.74	12.049

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
- (b) installs energy efficient or 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 – Rhian Bevan
 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 ext. 47275
 Claire Wilkinson – Energy and Water Technical Officer
Claire.wilkinson@bedford.gov.uk

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

Previous Relevant Minutes: *None*

Background Papers: *None*

Appendices: *None*