

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 responsible for 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 working days have passed and the Chief Officer responsible for Legal and Democratic Services has confirmed the decision has not been called in.

1. Description of decision

That funding from the Mayor's Climate Change Fund, in the sum of £2,065.10, for an application from Bromham Village Hall to fund the installation of new LED lighting and energy efficient fridge at Bromham Village Hall for the reasons set out in this report, be approved.

2. Date of decision

07 May 2025

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 2025/2026 revenue budget allocation for the Mayor's Climate Change Fund is £100,000. Funding is currently available to cover the application detailed in the report, in the sum of £2,065.10. The Climate Change Fund is 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.

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

Not Applicable

Signed

Tom Wootton

Date:

7 May 2025

Name of Decision Taker:

Mayor Tom Wootton

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

Date decision published:09May2025.....

Date decision can be implemented if not called in: ...16May2025.....

(Decision to be made exempt from call in NO)

Bedford Borough Council – Report to the Mayor

Date of Report: 7 May 2025

Report by: Service Director for Public Realm, Highways and Waste Management

Subject: MAYOR'S CLIMATE CHANGE FUND PROJECT APPLICATION: BROMHAM VILLAGE HALL

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides details on an application for funding to the Climate Change Fund from Bromham Village Hall, Village Road, Bromham, MK43 8JP, and recommends approval of the funding towards the project.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Mayor considers the report and, if satisfied, to approve funding from the Mayor's Climate Change Fund for an application from Bromham Village Hall to fund the installation of LED lighting and energy efficient refrigerator, in the sum of £2,065.10, for the reasons set out in this report.

3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 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. THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The 2025/2026 revenue budget allocation for the Mayor's Climate Change Fund is £100,000. Funding is currently available to cover the application detailed in the report, in the sum of £2,065.10.

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.
- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. 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.
- 5.4. Details of Funding Application:

Bromham Village Hall was built in 1993 with an extension in 2002. The Village Hall is of great important to the local community, being used daily for the local preschool in term time. Outside of these times, the hall is hired by regular users providing sports, dance, self-defence, plus many more classes as well as available for private hire. The Parish Council also rent an office here.

The building currently consists of the original, fluorescent lighting which are not controlled or efficient. The current fridge freezer in the kitchen is a pre-1989 model which is permanently on and used by the pre-school and private hirers and is an essential appliance. The EPC recommendation report suggests that changing to LED lighting and installing motion sensors would have a medium impact.

Outline proposal of the project:

Existing non-LED lighting is to be removed throughout the complex and new LED and/or motion activated lighting to be installed. The fridge / freezer will be replaced with an energy efficient model, (Hisense RB470N4SICUK Energy Rating C)
All obsolete items will be recycled or disposed of through a waste recycling centre.

The LED lighting will require less frequent maintenance (less bulb changes) meaning a cost saving on caretaking duties. The motion sensors will also contribute to minimising energy consumption as the lights will only be on when areas of the hall are in use and for shortened periods of times, as opposed to being left on accidentally by some hirers. The LED lighting will overall reduce energy consumption, as they will be a lower wattage than lighting currently in place.

The fridge / freezer is an essential appliance for hire, which is on constantly. Having an energy efficient model will reduce the overall running costs and is an attribute they can highlight to potential hirers, as they mainly receive bookings for birthday parties and the hirers will use the fridge/freezer for their own catering on the day. Regular hirers such as The Almonds will also be able to use this for food stored for the children in pre-school.

All improvements will directly impact overall energy costs, by reducing energy consumption on a daily basis.

Switching to more energy efficient LED lighting, leads to a significant reduction in carbon emissions and no toxic materials. The new units will be 100% recyclable, with a long lifetime span, thus saving material & production costs of incandescent bulbs. Lighting is integral to the hall hire; lights are on within the halls for the majority of the day/evening. At present it is easy for a light to be overlooked and left on when the hall is not in use, due to no presence detectors being fitted.

Fridge/freezer's contribute to climate change as they generate greenhouse gases indirectly by use of electricity. On average an older fridge/freezer (such as currently utilised) will use 33% more energy than a newer energy efficient model. The fridge/freezer is on constantly for hirers of the Village Hall. The new model will run at 169kWh per annum, as opposed to the original model which is estimated to run at between 400-500kWh per annum.

All of the above projects will individually reduce the carbon emissions via overall reduction in energy consumption.

5.5 The energy savings breakdown below. Total project costs are **£4,130.21**.

Type of Energy	Units to be used	Total units pre-project	Total Units saved	Carbon Emissions Factor (Kg)	Total Kg of Carbon Saved	Tonnes of Carbon Saved
Electricity	kWh	12,123.20	1,531	0.2556	391.32	0.3913236
Natural Gas	kWh			0.18385	0	0

Energy savings and Payback					
Type of Energy	Unit Rate	Kwh saved	50% Project cost	£ savings	Project payback
Electricity	0.3082	1,531	£2,065.10	£471.84	4.3767

Previous projects and other proposed projects

The external lighting to the premises has been changed to energy efficient lighting from existing lights. There has been a reduction in the number of lights needed and they are all on motion sensors and time limiters.

There are notices for hirers to prompt them to turn of lighting after hire of the hall, as well as to turn down the heating. It is on the checklist for staff to check prior to securing the building to minimise unnecessary energy use.

Fridges in the bar area are turned off between hires to save energy, however, hirer's fridges cannot be turned off due to the number of hires in any week.

All materials removed are recycled appropriately.

The Village Hall are currently reviewing the windows to the building, to see what recommendations can be made, to further assist with insulating the premises.

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

6. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 6.1 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.

7. KEY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Legal Issues – relevant legal power

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'.

7.2 Policy Issues

This application supports the Protecting the Environment priority in the Council's Corporate Plan for 2024/25 to 2027/28, which states

Protecting the Environment

We are committed to delivering a cleaner, greener and safer place for urban and rural communities. We will effectively manage the planning process, the delivery of infrastructure and work to mitigate climate change.

7.3 Resource Issues

The Mayor's Climate Change Fund budget for 2025/2026 is £100,000 and full funding is currently available to cover the application detailed in the report, which is in total £2,065.10. 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.

7.4 Risks

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.

7.5 Environmental Implications

Encouraging communities to help reduce their carbon footprint will help mitigate the impacts of climate change

7.6 Equalities Impact

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 climatechange fund@bedford.gov.uk

7.7 Impact on Families

In a recent neighbourhood 2024 questionnaire, focusing on key aspects of Bromham, the village hall received a very strong response with 75% of residents confirming that they or their family used it for events or activities. It shows that this is a vital community asset. Investment into making this hall future proof and bringing down operational costs ensures that this can continue to provide a community space for residents and families.

7.8 Community Safety and Resilience

Improved lighting and saving in operational costs by reduced usage all helps towards resilience. Better for the environment. Prominent threats to utilities, especially from extreme weather events, are common and increasing. The project will also help towards the decarbonisation of the borough, saving on carbon emissions.

7.9 Impact on Health and Wellbeing

Bromham Village Hall improves individual quality of life and has a positive impact on those using it on their Health & Wellbeing by contributing to social, physical, economic, educational and environmental wellbeing, it also positively impacts on the social cohesion through the sharing of common interest and experience, resulting in friendship, togetherness, a sense of belonging and community spirit.

8. SUMMARY OF CONSULTATIONS AND OUTCOME

8.1 The following Councillors, Council units, Officers and/or other organisations have been consulted in preparing this report:

Portfolio Holder for Environment
Carbon, Energy Team
Service Director for Finance
Interim Monitoring Officer
Manager for Asset and Estate Management

All relevant comments have been incorporated into the report as necessary.

9. WARD COUNCILLOR VIEWS

9.1 The local ward Councillor(s) for the Bromham Ward have been consulted, and all relevant comments have been incorporated into the report.

10. CONTACTS AND REFERENCES

Report Contact Officer:	Paul Pace – Service Director (public realm, Highways and Waste) paul.pace@bedford.gov.uk ext. 47275 Claire Wilkinson – Energy and Water Technical Officer claire.wilkinson@bedford.gov.uk
Declarations of Interest by the Report Author:	None
File Reference:	I: Environment/Committees/Reports/Decisions
Previous Relevant Minutes:	None
Background Papers:	None
Appendices:	None