



September 10th 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Future Neighbourhoods 2030

I would like to confirm that Repowering London supports the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's application to the Mayor's Future Neighbourhoods 2030 funding programme.

Repowering London specializes in creating local energy projects through co-production with local community groups and Local Authorities. Repowering London has worked with Climate Change Team at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea since 2015 and together with local residents we successfully established the Borough's community energy organisation 'North Kensington Community Energy' (NKCE). NKCE was registered as a Community Benefit Society in 2018 and is led by local volunteer Directors. It currently owns 224 kWp of solar PV arrays installed on 2 schools, a community centre and a leisure facility. North Kensington Community Energy today has a membership of 244 investor members who helped raise the capital funds of £186,000 to install the solar PV arrays.

Repowering has secured funding from the National Lottery Fund to employ a local resident as the NKCE Community Champion. The Champion is responsible for raising awareness of North Kensington Community Energy, engaging residents and businesses to grow energy projects and identify local volunteers across the Borough. If the application is successful, the Champion will also support engagement activities as part of the proposal as match funded contribution through Repowering.

I would therefore like to confirm that we will be partnering with the Council to support with engaging the community and delivering a series of initiatives together as part of the Future Neighbourhoods project. These will include:

- **Community engagement**

Repowering's model of community led projects involves inviting a wide spectrum of the local resident and business community to take positive action on decarbonisation and energy usage. Engagement activities in Notting Dale will include:

- Attending community events in the Notting Dale to introduce residents to the benefits of community energy, primarily through the NKCE Community Champion. NKCE's Community Champion is able to signpost residents to advice on reducing bills and increasing wellbeing, as well linking local issues such as air pollution to the wider climate change conversation.
- Working with the RBKC Climate Change Team to support businesses and charities in the area to reduce their carbon footprint.

- **Training and education**

At the launch of the NKCE project, Repowering delivered our 40-hour Youth Training Programme for 16 young people from the local area. The Youth Training Programme includes the opportunity for Trainees to gain a broad knowledge of sustainability and community engagement, certificates in AQA accredited modules, as well as work experience in the green economy. The Future Neighbourhood fund will enable Repowering London to deliver the Youth Training Programme to a further 30 young people from the Notting Dale area in two cohorts (<https://youtu.be/Nzqg-WZcc6Q>).



- **Developing new community owned solar generating projects on social housing as part of North Kensington Community Energy**

Repowering established the first community-owned solar power station (37 kWp) on social housing in Brixton in 2012, and has gone on to develop similar projects with a total of 300 kWp generating capacity on social housing estates across London. These projects were financially viable to create as they received income from the Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) subsidy and have gone on to be test beds of innovation for local electricity supply models. However, with the removal of the FIT these projects require grant fund contributions towards the capital cost to make the project financially viable.

We will use the Future Neighborhood grant to create a post-FIT, community owned solar installation that allows residents to invest in creating locally generated electricity while receiving a 3% return on their investment. The project will follow Repowering's award-winning model, with a minimum investment of £50 for local residents under 25 or on benefits, and a one-member-one-vote system as part of NKCE. The 100 kWp solar array will create a community fund, as well as supporting the development of a local electricity supply model that will allow residents living in the blocks to purchase locally generated solar electricity at an affordable tariff. This will enable those who are living on low income to benefit from renewable energy technology in the same way as those who own their homes and have the funds to invest in solar panels.

- **Create a Local Electricity Supply demonstrator project (phase 2)**

Under current regulation of the electricity market, it is very difficult for households and businesses to buy the output of local renewable energy generators directly. The generators have no option but to sell their output that goes to 'the Grid' to large electricity suppliers, and potential local customers have no option but to also buy the electricity they need from large suppliers. Repowering have been working with the electricity regulator Ofgem, as well as electricity supply companies and innovative start-ups, to develop new business models and commercial arrangements that will allow local electricity consumers to benefit from local renewable generation. Having the option of matching renewable generation with local customers' needs would be transformative for the UK's renewable potential, and would also empower communities to provide more affordable energy to those households and communities who need it most. Notting Dale is a predominantly residential area, with relatively high areas of fuel poverty.

Following on from the installation of new solar PV capacity in the first phase of the RBKC Future Neighborhoods project, Repowering would lead a demonstrator project to show how local households can benefit directly from surplus renewable energy generation. We would expect 20-30 households to be included in the demonstrator, with average financial savings of 20% on participants' electricity bills".

We strongly support this application which will allow the Council and partners to encourage residents in businesses in Notting Dale to take positive action on climate change in a holistic way, by delivering projects that create local and global impact, while supporting the most disadvantaged and underrepresented residents in the local area. We are currently exploring match funding to support the delivery of some of the above, the community owned solar array will receive match funding through a community share offer.



Creating local energy



Repowering continues to work with Climate Change Team to support the growth and development of NKCE, provide training and education opportunities to local youth and identify innovative community energy opportunities in the Borough. The Climate Change Team continue to support community led approaches in the Borough and this application will help build on the momentum and partnerships that are established. We wish the Council all the best on the application and will support the project if successful.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Afsheen Kabir Rashid'.

Afsheen Kabir Rashid

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