



Date: September 20th 2021

RE: GLA 2030 Future Neighbourhoods Application – Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing on behalf of North Kensington Community Energy, to support The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) Council in their proposal for the 2030 Future Neighbourhoods application in Notting Dale.

North Kensington Community Energy is RBKC's first energy cooperative. We work to bring community-owned solar power to Kensington and Chelsea. To-date, we have installed 224kWp of solar panels in the borough, which are collectively owned by 244 investors, many of whom are from the local community. These panels save over 40 tonnes of CO₂ a year, generate a 3% return on investment for every investor in the project, and will raise over £70,000 for the local community over their lifetime. We also have a thriving volunteer team, who help organise community events and partner with other local organisations to bring residents together, building connections and empowering people to tackle climate change in their own lives and communities. We were awarded the Community Renewable Energy Project Award in 2019 and the Climate Coalition's Inspirational Community Project award in 2020.

We confirm that we would like to partner with the Council to support with engaging the community and delivering a series of initiatives and together as part of this application, such as:

Community-owned solar power

Working with Repowering and RBKC, we will use the Future Neighbourhood Grant to deliver 100kWp of new community owned solar panels. These panels will generate clean electricity, make money for local investors and raise money for other local causes. This will be an exciting new step into installing community owned panels on social housing, which will help ensure that everyone can be part of tackling the climate crisis, no matter what their income. As NKCE, we would take responsibility for promoting and completing the share offer, where local residents are given the opportunity to invest in the panels and bring them into community ownership. We have run two successful share offers to-date, raising £186,000 of investment from the local community to achieve our goals. This would take place under the *Powering Up for the People* theme.

Training and education

NKCE has previously, in partnership with Repowering, delivered [training](#) for 16 young people in the local area, who were paid the London Living Wage to participate in a 40hr scheme that equipped them to work in the industries of the future, with modules on

renewable technologies, communication, community engagement and more. We would use the Future Neighbourhood Grant to deliver this scheme again to 30 young people from the Notting Dale area. This would take place under the *Delivering New Green Jobs and Skills* theme.

Community engagement

NKCE has recently appointed a Community Champion, a local resident employed on behalf of NKCE to engage local residents in community energy. Through the Community Champion and NKCE's volunteers, we will:

- Attend community events in Notting Dale to educate residents about community energy and climate change, and help maximise participation in the Future Neighbourhood Programme.
- Provide advice on reducing fuel bills and improving wellbeing
- Run our own community events focused on empowering local people to take action on climate change.

We have been working with the Council for a number of years to deliver our award-winning community energy schemes in North Kensington, and have a strong relationship and track record of delivery from this partnership, in the form of our existing solar panels (224kW across 4 sites) and community engagement in the local area (through events such as the [Greener Living Day](#)).

We strongly support this application which will not only tackle environmental issues in a holistic way; but will embed green recovery at the heart and bring benefits for the community, particularly support the most disadvantaged residents and unrepresented groups in Notting Dale.

Through this letter, we acknowledge specific roles and responsibilities we will fulfil in this partnership, including delivering community-owned solar power, training young people in green jobs and skills, and engaging the community in Notting Dale Ward. Our experience working with the Council has been positive, and we wish the Council all the best on this application.

Yours sincerely,

Key contact details: Neil Grant

Position: Director, NKCE [and Notting Dale resident]

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Francesca Spoerry

Director, NKCE, and North Kensington Resident

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I confirm all the above information is correct. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Scott Grant', written in a cursive style.A second handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Scott Grant', written in a cursive style, positioned above the first signature.