

EXECUTIVE**17 January 2024****Questions for Oral Reply****1. From Mr Dermot Mckibbin to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families**

In 2021/22, the South East London Community Energy conducted feasibility studies on 4 schools that were feasible for solar panels. Do these schools now have solar panels in place? If not, will the Council re-open discussions again with Selce in order to get solar panels on these four schools?

Reply:

The Council does not currently plan to re-open discussion with SELCE because they were concluded mutually. The Council successfully bid to the London Community Energy Fund (LCEF) for support to finance energy efficiency surveys at its maintained schools in 2021, and the surveys were conducted by SELCE. The mutual decision not to process further with SELCE once feasibilities were completed was based on the Council's decision to fund the CAPEX costs of the proposed solar panels. CAPEX purchase of the solar panels did not fit with SELCE's community leasing model. However, funding the CAPEX will result in schools enjoying the full benefit from the solar energy generated.

On point of clarification, officers have checked through the final proposals submitted by SELCE on 30 September 2021 to the Council, and this only refers to 3 maintained schools: Edgebury, Poverest and Riverside.

The Council is currently finalising the feasibility work to procure and install the photovoltaic solar panel arrays at the 3 schools this year.

Supplementary Question:

I am a Director of South East London Community Energy. Would you please write to me setting out the advantage of the partnership following the meeting? Could you also send me your response to my question in writing?

Reply:

Yes I would be happy to write to you following the meeting.

Questions for Written Reply

1. From Ms Helen Alsworth to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

Please list which Bromley maintained schools were assessed as suitable for solar panels and at what cost, which schools now have renewable energy in place and what does it consist of?

Reply:

The schools were:

Edgebury Primary School
Poverest Primary School
Riverside School

Our maintained schools have been subject to continual improvement with regards sustainability and decarbonisation over the past decade. Our Education Planned Maintenance Programme supporting our maintained schools includes a 10% annual allocation for improvements that benefit the environment. In addition, the expansion of both Edgebury Primary School and Poverest Primary School through our Basic Need Capital Programme has both delivered improvements to thermal efficiency, in line with building regulations, and included the installation of photovoltaic solar panel arrays on the new build elements.

At Southborough Primary School the Council has recently completed a scheme to replace the school's gas-fuelled boilers with air source heat pumps, part funded by Salix, as part of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Programme. The estimated final cost of this scheme is £892,000.

Marjorie McClure School was not included in the assessments undertaken by SELCE as it was in the process of being rebuilt on a new site as part of the Department for Education's Priority School Building Programme. That school was part of a sustainability pilot by the Department for Education in response to the UK Government target to achieve net-zero 'greenhouse gas' emissions by 2050. The new building is designed to reduce the need for energy use with heating and hot water generation fossil-fuel free by means of an air source heat pump and including photovoltaics on the roof.

The Council is planning to procure and install further photo-voltaic solar panels on the 3 schools surveyed during 2024. The estimated costs of these works is £96,000.