

Islington Community Energy Fund

Prospectus



Children at Three Corners Adventure Playground display their solar powered cars.

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1. Introduction and background

In 2016, Islington Council established the Islington Community Energy Fund (ICEF) from recommendations at the Islington Council Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

Following on from four successful rounds, Islington Council has now launched Round 6, commissioning energy projects for organisations with charitable aims through the ICEF.

The fund aims to support community-led innovative energy projects that benefit Islington residents, particularly the fuel poor. Projects should help to reduce carbon emissions in the borough and help Islington move to cleaner sources of energy.

The grant can be used for:

- Capital costs for purchasing equipment and materials
- Core costs, such as staff or office costs
- Project costs, such as feasibility studies and consultancy fees.

It is, however, expected that the majority of the costs will be used for capital.

The Community Energy Fund grants target organisations with charitable aims based and working in the borough of Islington. Applications are welcomed and actively encouraged not only from energy and environmental groups, but also from community groups looking to carry out an energy related project.

1.1 Why are we doing this?

Community energy covers aspects of collective action to reduce, purchase, manage and generate energy. As part of Islington Council's journey to become carbon neutral by 2030, the Islington Community Energy Fund (ICEF) is giving an opportunity to the community to come up with radical and innovative energy ideas, which will lead to significant cuts in carbon emissions and reduce fuel poverty. ICEF aims to cultivate these ideas at the grassroots level.

Community energy projects have an emphasis on local engagement, local leadership and control. They ensure the local community benefits collectively from the outcomes.

Community-led action often tackles challenging issues around energy, with community groups being best placed to understand their local area, bringing people together for a common purpose.

2. Islington Community Energy Fund

2.1 Who will be able to apply?

The Islington Community Energy Fund is open to all constituted groups with charitable aims within Islington who would like to carry out an energy related project. The fund is particularly targeted at small organisations with charitable aims based and working in

the borough. We welcome applications from community groups who have not been involved in energy projects. You do not have to be an energy or environmental group; however, applications are limited to the following groups:

- Registered Charities
- Community and Voluntary Groups
- Co-operatives
- Faith and Equalities Groups
- Social Enterprises
- Community Interest Companies.

Community Interest Companies and Social Enterprise will only be eligible for a grant if they operate on a wholly not-for-profit basis and meet the following criteria:

- 100% of surplus income is re-invested into the organisation
- The organisation does not have a 'profit distribution' clause in its governing documents, which allows it to pay Executive Directors as shareholders. Executive Directors must operate in a voluntary capacity.

Organisations seeking funding must have a bank account. If applications are submitted by a consortium, then the lead applicant must have a bank account.

2.2 What will the fund cover?

The grant programme covers all costs relating to a project or activity including:

- capital costs (to support the cost of a renewable installation or deep retrofit)
- core costs (e.g. consulting fees, staff or office costs to support the project, but not for general staff or office costs)
- project costs (e.g. venue hire, project worker)
- project management costs
- feasibility studies.

Projects must aim to save carbon either through generating renewable energy¹ or reducing consumption of energy through retrofitting activities.

Projects should be something that an organisation would not do as part of their general day-to-day activities, such as installing onsite renewable energy generation. Items which are day-to-day maintenance (such as replacing lighting with LED) will not be considered, unless it is a small part

¹ Renewable energy is energy which is collected from renewable resources and is naturally replenished in a human timescale such as sunlight, wind and geothermal heat. Projects generating heat or electricity in community buildings or across multiple domestic properties will be considered (we are not providing a list of technologies; innovative technologies are welcome).

of a much larger project. Please contact energyservices@islington.gov.uk for guidance if you are unsure.

2.3 What is not covered by the fund

- Due to Carbon Offset restrictions, this fund cannot cover fully-funded posts, only fees for consultancy work or partial, temporary staff costs to support this particular project.
- This fund cannot be used for day to day running costs of an organisation.
- We will only consider reasonable 'contingency costs' on capital projects.
- This fund does not cover maintenance of existing equipment.
- Whilst educational activities around energy savings are important, we expect the majority of the application to be for capital costs. Therefore, we will allow funding for workshops which support a capital project, but not workshops on their own.
- Please note you cannot apply for an ICEF grant retrospectively for projects that have already been completed.

2.4 Partnership bids

When assessing applications for partnerships we will be looking for evidence that it is a genuine partnership. Applications should demonstrate meaningful leadership and control over project development delivery by a particular community partner.

2.5 How much funding will be available?

The Islington Community Energy Fund is split into three streams of funding:



2.5.1 Stream A - Feasibility Studies and Business Case Development

We will fund 100% of up to £10,000 per project supported.

The Feasibility Studies and Business Case Development grant can help community energy projects by removing financial barriers to project feasibility. It is to get a community energy project 'investor ready' – that is, ready to be financed to build.

Projects being developed must demonstrate quantifiable carbon savings, for example: energy generation or storage; low carbon heating technologies; or energy efficiency and energy use reductions.

Funding in Stream A will support a range of works associated with developing a project to the point where it is ready for implementation. This could include:

- Initial assessments of a building to determine appropriate technologies
- Technical feasibility assessment (for example structural surveys, assessing the feasibility of grid connection)
- Stakeholder consultation and community engagement costs
- Assessment of planning issues
- Getting permissions from the site landowner
- Staff costs for project delivery, such as labour, design, and project management
- Licences and consent
- Financial viability or business case assessments
- Legal advice.

We want to support community groups to unlock the potential for innovative and new community energy projects by identifying those with the most potential to progress.

2.5.2 Stream B – Small Capital Project Implementation grants

We will fund 100% of up to £10,000 per project supported.

The Small Capital Project Implementation grant can support a small community energy project in its entirety.

Projects being developed must demonstrate quantifiable carbon savings, for example: energy generation or storage; low carbon heating technologies; or energy efficiency and energy use reductions.

Examples of this type of project could be a small solar installation costing under £10,000, or battery storage for an existing array.

If you have any queries about what would be considered for this grant, please contact energyservices@islington.gov.uk.

2.5.3 Stream C – Capital Project Implementation and Delivery grants

We will fund up to 50% of the capital value of the project, capped at a maximum of £50,000 per project supported.

The Capital Project Implementation and Delivery grant stream is to help enable capital projects to happen.

We expect applicants to evidence how they have secured or intend to secure match funding for their capital project and also why the works can't be fully funded from other sources.

Funding in Stream C will support a range of works associated with implementing projects. This could include:

- Purchase of materials required for the project (e.g. energy efficiency measures, heat pump, solar panels etc)
- Installation and project management of the installation
- Machine and equipment purchase or hire.

PLEASE NOTE:

- You can only apply in one category for a project in this round of funding.
- Projects which have been given feasibility funding in a previous round may apply for capital funding in this round.
- If you successfully receive a grant in Stream B, you may only receive this once per organisation.

Capital projects should only submit an application when the project has secured all approvals, feasibilities studies, permissions, etc and is ready to be financed for deployment/installation. You should also have a clear project timeline showing that the project can be delivered within 12 months, otherwise your application may be declined.

3. What are we looking for in projects?

Projects must show a demonstrable carbon saving. Projects should either generate energy or save energy. They must benefit the community, particularly the fuel poor. The projects should be innovative in either their technology or methodology (see 3.1).

We are not funding maintenance-type projects, such as installing LEDs and windows, or repairing items already installed. These type of projects should be part of routine maintenance of the building.

3.1 Innovation

The Islington Community Energy Fund aims to improve energy literacy and stimulate new energy projects across the borough. We hope to see a wide variety of innovative ideas coming forward. This does not however mean that an established project that fits with the core aims of the fund would not be offered financial assistance.

Innovation does not necessarily mean using new technology. It can also mean 'thinking outside the box' to create a project that uses existing technology in a new way, or shows that your group

is trying to bring new methodologies to a project. It must be thinking of a new idea or way of doing things that actually works in practice.

Some examples of innovative projects that have been funded are:

- A housing cooperative has a long-term plan to be energy self-sufficient. This includes solar PV panels for electricity, changing communal lighting to LED, installing electric vehicle charge points, and putting in battery storage to use all energy generated. The ICEF has given them a grant to begin the process by installing a large solar PV array.
- A local community group are installing air source heat pumps alongside solar panels to generate their own heat and electricity for much of the day.
- A local adventure playground invited parents and guardians to help build and install solar panels for some outside buildings. The solar panels, alongside battery storage, allow for the playground to hold outdoor events in the evenings using electricity they have generated and stored. The children were able to build solar powered cars alongside their parents, educating them about how solar power works.

Other innovative projects could be the installation of energy efficiency or microgeneration measures² in community buildings or across a number of domestic properties³, or training and materials to construct small scale renewables for local groups.

4. Islington partners

We recognise that it might be difficult to find an idea for energy project or to complete an application form for funding. At Islington Council we work with a number of organisations who can help you with the expertise to put in your application. If you have an idea and are unsure who to speak to, contact us in the first instance and we will be happy to try and connect you to the most appropriate organisation for your ideas.

Here is a list of partner organisations who are happy to help your community group in setting up a Community Energy Project.



Power Up North London (PUNL) - is a community business that focuses on delivering renewable energy generation, energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects in North London. PUNL works with interested community organisations on the full cycle of solar PV installation, from the initial technical feasibility, to obtaining the necessary permissions from the landowner and local council,

² Measures will be assessed based upon cost effective carbon savings, we are keen to see innovative projects which demonstrate new technologies or techniques.

³ Preference will be given to projects which work with groups in or at risk of fuel poverty

putting the legal agreements in place, engaging with local residents, raising community finance and delivering the installation. PUNL is closely connected with other community energy groups including Community Energy London, Repowering London and SELCE, with whom we share best practice.

<https://powerupnorthlondon.org/>



Repowering London – is a not-for-profit organisation that specialises in facilitating the co-production of community-owned renewable energy projects. They specialise in working with community groups and local authorities to:

- Reduce CO2 emissions by generating decentralised low-carbon energy
- Tackle fuel poverty and educate residents about energy efficiency
- Promote local leadership through co-operative community engagement
- Provide opportunities for local and responsible financial investment
- Create training and employment opportunities for local people.

<https://www.repowering.org.uk/>



Community Energy London – Community Energy London is a not-for-profit organisation established to support the growing network of community energy practitioners currently operating in London. Community Energy can mean everything from clubbing together to get solar on your local estate or city farm, to doing talks with schools about saving energy, or even screening a film about energy with your neighbours. CEL was established to help support groups in London to share experience, resources and learning. CEL offers a list of suppliers and consultants that community groups have worked with, as well as reference guides and information.

www.communityenergy.london



Community Energy England - Community Energy England (CEE) represents and supports those committed to the community energy sector. Community energy includes the delivery of community renewables, energy efficiency, demand reduction and energy supply projects.

communityenergyengland.org

More case studies and useful resources can be found online through:

- Centre of Sustainable Energy: <https://www.cse.org.uk/thesource>
- GLA London Community Fund website at [London.gov.uk](https://www.london.gov.uk)

5. Applications requirements

All applications for funding need to demonstrate substantial carbon savings, have a clear set of objectives that can be measured, and be a benefit to the local community.

The deadlines for each round of funding will be available on the Islington Council website under the Community Energy Fund pages.

For Round 6, the application window will open on 14 November, 2022 and close on 6 January, 2023.

Please keep all descriptions as brief as possible. List all supporting information you are including with your application and proposal. We welcome information and attachments that support your application.

All applications must be submitted with a realistic and worked-out project plan, with a comprehensive delivery timetable, responsible parties for management and delivery, stakeholders, and clear and detailed implementation strategy. It should also include a section of the anticipated risks of project delays or challenges, and how this will be mitigated. Lastly, it should outline how the long-term sustainability benefits of the project will be maintained after the project has been delivered. **Bids which have vague, uncosted or unrealistic project plans are likely to be rejected.**

If you would like guidance on your application or assistance in filling in the application form, please contact us at energyservices@islington.gov.uk

Please email completed application forms in electronic format (Word or PDF) to: energyservices@islington.gov.uk

Please note that decisions to grant funding (if any) are subject to a formal process. You must not rely on London Borough of Islington Community Energy Fund support until we have notified you in writing that your application has been successful. Your authorised signatories must then sign and return the funding agreement to us. At this stage the funding will be released.

All projects must be completed by 1 May 2024.

5.1 Assessing applications

All applications will be assessed by an evaluation panel, which will include Islington Council staff and delegated Councillors.

Applicants will be notified if their application has been successful approximately 6 to 8 weeks after the application deadline date. The panel may contact applicants before this date for any clarifications to their application.

5.2 Funding terms

Funding granted by the London Borough of Islington is subject to the Islington general terms and conditions document, included as Appendix A. You will be required to read this document and sign that you agree to the terms and conditions before funds are released to you.

For any additional information or queries, please contact:

London Borough of Islington - Energy Services

Telephone: 020 7527 2121

energyservices@islington.gov.uk

togethergreener.islington.gov.uk

Appendix A

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Definitions

“**We**” and “**our**” refer to the Organisation receiving the Grant bound by these terms and conditions.

“**You**” and “**your**” means the Council including its employees and those acting for on its behalf.

The Grant Agreement, which we will have accepted and signed, includes and incorporates these standard terms and conditions. We understand that the Grant Agreement will only start after you are satisfied with all our supporting documentation and will come into force on the date that we receive the Grant payment from you.

1. In general

- 1.1 We will use the Grant exclusively for the Project. We will hold any unused part of the Grant on trust for you at all times, and we will repay any Grant (including any unused Grant) to you immediately upon demand.
- 1.2 During the Grant Period we will act in a fair and open manner without distinction as to race, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation or disability, and in compliance with relevant legislation.
- 1.3 We will make sure that all current and future members of our governing body or our executive team, if we are a statutory organisation, receive a copy of these terms and conditions while the Grant Agreement remains in force.
- 1.4 We will ensure that at all times while the Grant Agreement is in force we are correctly constituted and regulated and that the receipt of the Grant and the delivery of the Project are within the scope of our governing documents, and if asked by you we will provide a legal opinion from our solicitors confirming this.

2. The Project

- 2.1 We will get your written agreement before making any change to the Project or to its aims, structure, delivery, outcomes, duration or ownership.
- 2.2 We will start the Project as soon as possible after receiving the first Grant payment from you.
- 2.3 We agree to make satisfactory progress with the Project and complete it within the Grant Period.

- 2.4 We confirm that we have all the funding we may need for the Project from anyone else. We will tell you of any other offer of funding for this Project from anyone else at any time during the Project.
- 2.5 If we spend less than the whole Grant on the Project, we will return the unspent amount to you promptly. If the Grant part-funds the Project, we will return the appropriate share of the unspent amount to you.
- 2.6 We will acknowledge the Grant publicly as appropriate and as practical. We will follow your branding and publicity guidelines at all times. We will acknowledge your support in any published documents that refer to the Project, including any advertisements, accounts and public annual reports, or in written or spoken public presentations about the Project.
- 2.7 We hereby consent to any publicity about the Grant and the Project as you may from time to time require. You can carry out any forms of publicity and marketing to promote the award of the Grant as you see fit. We agree to do whatever you reasonably require in order to assist with any form of publicity and marketing, including any press or media related activities.
- 2.8 We will tell you promptly about any changes to information we have provided and will make sure that the information you hold is always true and up to date.
- 2.9 In our management of all personal information we will meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018. We will tell you immediately if any of our key contacts change.
- 2.10 We agree to meet all laws regulating the way we operate, the services we provide, the building work we carry out, the staff we employ or the goods we buy. We will ensure that we have an equal opportunities policy in place at all times, to ensure we comply with all relevant laws and good practice throughout the period of the Grant Agreement. We will obtain all approvals and licenses required by law or by you.
- 2.11 If our Project involves work with children, young people or vulnerable adults (“vulnerable people”), we will take all reasonable steps to ensure their safety. We will obtain the written agreement from the legal carer or guardian before having any direct contact with any vulnerable person. We will have and carry out an appropriate written policy and set of procedures in place at all times to safeguard vulnerable people, which will include obtaining appropriate Criminal Records Bureau checks for all employees, volunteers, trustees or contractors who will supervise, care for or otherwise have significant direct contact with vulnerable people.
- 2.12 If we are a charity, we will register with the Charity Commission if our income goes over their minimum exemption figure.

- 2.13 We will maintain adequate insurance at all times and if asked, will supply copies of confirmation to you. This includes all appropriate insurance for any activities we provide and employee and public liability insurance.
- 2.14 You have the right to reproduce any of our application or subsequent information supplied by us to you for any purpose as you see fit without any right of a claim by us in respect of copyright.
- 2.15 We will ensure that none of our employees or agency staff engaged in the delivery of the Project is paid an hourly wage (or equivalent of an hourly wage) less than the London Living Wage which is currently [£10.55] (unless otherwise directed by the Council).
- 2.16 We will provide you with information concerning the payment of the London Living Wage to our employees or to the employees of our sub-contractors engaged in the delivery of the Project as you may reasonably require from time to time.
- 2.17 We will ensure that we have a policy on whistleblowing in place at all times to ensure we comply with our obligations under PIDA 1998 as amended
- 2.18 You must ensure that Islington Council logo are used in any marketing activities undertaken in respect of the Project.
- 2.19 You must not do anything (in the opinion of Islington Council) that may place the Islington Council, its third party partners in disrepute or harm that Islington Council reputation and/or that of third party partner.
- 2.20 You acknowledge and agree that should your Project costs exceed the Funding, Islington Council shall not provide any additional funding and shall not be liable for any sums in excess of Funding provided under Grant Agreement.

3. Our organisation

- 3.1 We will get your written agreement before:
 - 3.1.1 Changing our governing document, (unless we are a statutory organisation) concerning our aims, payments to members and members of our governing body, the sharing out of our assets (whether our organisation is dissolved or not), or the admission of any new members; or
 - 3.1.2 Transferring our assets to, or merging or amalgamating with, any other body, including a company set up by us.
- 3.2 We will write to you as soon as possible if any legal claims are made or threatened against us and/or which would adversely affect our ability to deliver the Project during the period of the Grant (including any claims made against members of our governing body or staff concerning the organisation).

- 3.3 We will tell you in writing as soon as possible of any investigation concerning our organisation, trustees, directors, employees or volunteers carried out by the Police, Charity Commission, HM Revenue & Customs or any other regulatory body.
- 3.4 We will be available for meetings with you and allow full and free access to our records however and wherever held and to any of our offices or buildings to you, or those acting for you.
- 3.5 We will let you know if our governing body falls below three members and will increase it to at least three as soon as possible.

4. VAT

- 4.1 We acknowledge that the Grant is not consideration for any taxable supply for VAT purposes by us to you. We understand your obligation does not extend to paying us any amounts in respect of VAT in addition to the Grant and that the Grant made by you is inclusive of VAT.

5. Our annual report and accounts

- 5.1 We will acknowledge your Grant in our annual reports and accounts covering the period of the Project.
- 5.2 We will show your Grant and related expenditure as a restricted fund in our Organisations annual accounts. If we have more than one restricted fund, or, as a statutory authority, cannot show restricted funds in our accounts, we will include a note to the accounts identifying each restricted fund separately. If we have more than one grant from you, we will record each grant separately in the notes to the accounts. We will identify unspent funds and assets in respect of the grant separately in our accounting records.
- 5.3 We will keep proper and up to date accounts, invoices and records for at least seven years after the termination of our Grant, which show how the Grant has been used. We will make these financial records available to you to look at and give you copies.
- 5.4 We will report regularly and fully to all members of our governing body on the financial position of our Organisation and will put in place procedures to avoid any conflict of interest arising in the provision of goods and services required to deliver the Project.

6. Monitoring

- 6.1 We will monitor the progress of the Project and complete regular reports as you require using the forms you send us.
- 6.2 We will update you on progress of the Project on request and will send you any further information you may ask for from time to time about the Project or about our Organisation, and its activities, the number of users and other beneficiaries and such

other information as you may require from time to time. You may use this information to monitor or publicise the Project and/or evaluate your grants programmes.

- 6.3 Where requested we will fill in a final report on the Project using the form you send us.
- 6.4 We will tell you immediately in writing of anything that significantly delays, threatens or makes unlikely the Project's completion.
- 6.5 We will tell you immediately if there is likely to be any significant variation to or decrease in the Project outcomes.
- 6.6 You will have access to inspect the progress of the Project at any reasonable time by prior appointment with us.

7. Payment of Grant

- 7.1 You will make the first payment within 30 working days of the date of this Grant Agreement and subsequent payments on receipt of a valid and correct claim in accordance with clause 7.2 submitted by us.
- 7.2 A valid claim for payment made by us will be accompanied by a completed project progress return and any other supplementary documentation that you may reasonably require to provide evidence of progress in relation to the Project as set out in the Project Proposal.
- 7.3 If the actual costs that we incur in delivering the Project are less than had been expected, you will make a proportionate reduction to the Grant. For the avoidance of doubt you will not be obliged to give us any more than the agreed Grant even if our expenditure in relation to the Project exceeds the Grant.
- 7.4 All Payments made shall be exclusive of Value Added Tax (VAT) chargeable in respect of the provision of services to which the Payment relates unless VAT is included in the claim with a proper VAT invoice. For the avoidance of doubt no sums in excess of the Grant available under this Grant Agreement are payable by the Council to the Organisation including any taxes such as value added tax, or other monies due to any third party.
- 7.5 You will pay the Grant by bank transfer (BACS) into a UK-based bank account or building society account in our name, which requires the signatures of at least two authorised people for every withdrawal. We will not use ATM's or debit cards to make cash withdrawals or payments from this account.

8. We understand that

- 8.1 You may share information about our Grant with any parties of your choice as well as with members of the public who make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Details of

the Project may be broadcast on television, on your website, in newspapers and through other media.

- 8.2 You will not increase the Grant if we spend more than the agreed budget.
- 8.3 You accept no liability for any consequences, whether direct or indirect, that may come about from our running the Project, the use of the Grant or from a withdrawal of our Grant.
- 8.4 You may demand repayment (and we will repay when asked) of all or part of the Grant at your absolute discretion, in any of the following circumstances if:
 - 8.4.1 We fail to meet any of these terms and conditions, or the terms and conditions attached to any other grants from you for which a Grant Agreement is still in force;
 - 8.4.2 We completed the application form dishonestly or significantly incorrectly or misleadingly;
 - 8.4.3 We or any other person or organisation acting for us gave you any significantly misleading or inaccurate information, whether deliberate or accidental, during the application process, or during the Grant Period;
 - 8.4.4 Members of our governing body, volunteers or staff act at any time during the Project dishonestly or negligently or in any way, directly or indirectly, to our detriment or to the detriment of our Organisation or the Project or to the detriment of your reputation;
 - 8.4.5 Our Organisation, members of our governing body, employees or volunteers are subject to an investigation or formal enquiry by the Police, Charity Commission, HM Revenue and Customs or other regulatory body;
 - 8.4.6 We receive, or have received, duplicate funding from any other source for the same or any part of the Project;
 - 8.4.7 There is a significant change of purpose, ownership or recipient, either during the Project or within a reasonable period after its completion, so that you judge that the Grant is unlikely to fulfil the purpose for which you made it;
 - 8.4.8 At any stage of the application process or during the Grant Period we do not let you have information that would affect your decision to award, continue or withdraw all or part of the Grant;
 - 8.4.9 We are or become legally ineligible to hold the Grant and/or
 - 8.4.10 If you have reasonable grounds to believe that it is necessary to protect public money.

- 8.5 You may demand repayment of all or any of the Grant if it is likely that our Organisation will have to stop operating, may be dissolved or become insolvent, or is likely to be put into administration or receivership or liquidation, or we are about to make an arrangement with, or guarantee a Trust Deed to our creditors.
- 8.6 We may not transfer any part of the Grant or this Grant Agreement or any rights under it to another organisation or individual unless it is for the payment of sub-contractors to carry out all or part of the Project comprising building works.
- 8.7 You may reject any future application from us to other programmes you run if we do not comply with these terms and conditions or you judge that we did not handle the Grant adequately or if we failed to complete any requests for information you made to us.
- 8.8 Both you and we must comply with EU state aid legislation (subject to de minimis levels) throughout the Grant Period and we will keep the necessary records and make them available to the Council on request.

9. Additional conditions

- 9.1 You have the right to impose additional terms and conditions on the Grant either in the conditional offer letter and/or if:

We are in breach of the Grant Agreement;

You judge that members of our governing body, volunteers or staff or any person or organisation closely involved in carrying out the Project act in a way that may have a detrimental effect on the Project or on your reputation as a distributor of public money; and/or

You believe such conditions are necessary or desirable to make sure that the Project is delivered as set out in our application or following any agreed changes.