



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr. Jon Shortland
Chief Officer – Planning & Infrastructure Development
Bedford Borough Council

Our Ref: MY22523

Please quote this reference in any future correspondence

8 June 2021

Dear Mr. Shortland

Re: Levelling Up Fund

Thank you for making me aware of Bedford Borough Council's intention to submit a bid to the Levelling Up Fund, which will be for a package of two projects aimed at improving the economic viability of Kempston.

I am pleased to support the Council's bid, which I understand will focus on:

1. Transport (walking and cycling) infrastructure (along the core stretch of the B531 from the Halsey Road shops to the Saxon Centre), to encourage people to walk and cycle:

- Improvements to footways, cycle paths, crossing points, junctions and lighting.
- Structural Maintenance of the B531 to complement the quality of the rest of the works.
- Reconstruction of the Kempston Mill Bridge, which has been closed for some time due to safety concerns, and the Back Channel Bridge, which is only accessible by steps. This work will reinstate walking and cycling routes to and from Great Denham.

2. Regeneration of the town centre:

- Public realm improvements around the Saxon Centre (resurfacing, flood prevention measures, entertainment / performance area, CCV, lighting and planters).
- Refurbishment of the Saxon Centre office block, to provide office accommodation and a space for community use.
- Acquisition of the Halsey Road Police Station and demolition of buildings on site, to enable the future construction of a new Multi-Speciality Community Care Centre.

I feel sure that the interventions described above will provide benefits for local residents, employees and businesses, as well as for visitors to Kempston, in terms of enhanced safety, air quality, opportunities for local employment, accessibility, social inclusion and future healthcare provision.

I am keen to be involved with this project and look forward to working with you on it.

Yours sincerely,



Mohammad Yasin MP
Bedford & Kempston

The office of Mohammad Yasin MP will only collect and use personal information for the specific purpose for which it has been obtained. For more details please visit <http://mohammadyasin.org/your-privacy>. A printed copy of our privacy policy can be obtained by writing to 2A Duke Street, Bedford, MK40 3HR.



30 St John Street
Newport Pagnell

14th April 2021

Jon Shortland,
Chief Officer for Planning & Infrastructure Development,
Bedford Borough Council,
Borough Hall,
Cauldwell Street,
Bedford MK42 9AP

Dear Mr. Shortland,

Re: Levelling Up Fund

Thank you for making me aware of Bedford Borough Council's intention to submit a bid to the Levelling Up Fund, particularly in respect of Kempston Mill Bridge.

The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust is pleased to support the bid, as we understand that the cost of reconstructing and at the same time raising Kempston Mill Bridge has been included, as part of the transport (active travel) project.

This project is of the utmost importance to the Trust, as the bridge at its current height currently forms a barrier to use of the river west of this point. Reconstruction at a height which will provide sufficient clearance for our boat to pass underneath will be a major improvement for us and other river users.

In view of these benefits, we would like to confirm that the Trust is willing to contribute a total of £35,000 to the project in 2021/22, and to use our best endeavours to increase this amount to £125,000 during the life of the project period, either from our own funds or through any grants / donations that we may attract.

The Trust is keen to be involved in this project and looks forward to working with you on it.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jane Hamilton', written over a horizontal line.

Jane Hamilton

Chair
Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Trust



Geraint Davies
Director of Performance and Governance
BLMK CCGs
Email: Geraint.davies3@nhs.net

16th June 2021

Via email to
Jon Shortland

Dear Jon

I am writing to confirm support from BLMK CCG towards the *Levelling Up* bid that Bedford Borough Council is submitting in relation to Kempston. The development of a health and care Hub in Kempston is an established priority for the CCG, local GP practices and other health partners, along with the Council, and we welcome all efforts to help bring this forward, particularly within the context of wider regeneration within the town.

I can confirm in principle that the CCG is willing to commit match-funding, of circa £200,000 towards the development of the Outline Business Case (OBC) and Full Business Case (FBC) for the Hub project, with the final amount to be determined. We assume that our contribution would be a proportion of both commissions, and therefore would be spread over a number of years, and the costs towards the FBC would be subject to prior approval of the OBC. This funding is subject to approval via our formal governance routes, but I can confirm is consistent with our Estates Strategy.

Very best of luck with the bid for this important programme.

Yours sincerely

Geraint Davies
Director of Performance and Governance

10 June 2021

Dear Mr Shortland

Levelling Up Fund

Thank you for making me aware of Bedford Borough Council's intention to submit a bid to the Levelling up Fund, which will be for a number of projects with the objective of improving the economic viability of Kempston.

I am pleased to support the Council's bid, which I understand will concentrate on transport (walking and cycling) infrastructure and the regeneration of the town centre.

The University of Bedfordshire (UOB) is pleased to support the bid, and particularly the regeneration of Kempston Town Centre, which I understand will include amongst a number of elements, public realm improvements around the Saxon Centre and the refurbishment of the Saxon Centre office block, to provide new, grade A flexible office accommodation and a space for community use.

The provision of quality new business space, on flexible terms is a key driver to support entrepreneurship and business. UOB has a program of business support initiatives which it is successfully delivering locally, including its SEMSUP Entrepreneurial Support which provides a number of funded projects designed to help businesses solve some of their most pressing problems including strategy, finance & funding, marketing & sales and digital tools.

Other relevant programs delivered by UOB include Innovation Bridges which supports innovation, ALPHAS which aims to support local SMEs in improving their leadership team, Growth Curve which provides tailored, face to face support for high growth businesses and Productivity Escalator which helps SMEs to do more with digital technology, thus improving their productivity.

Considering this proposed new business space, I believe there could be potential for UOB to undertake some outreach exercises and support occupying businesses in the Saxon Centre Office block with the business support programs detailed.

The University of Beds is keen to be involved in this project and looks forward to working with you on it.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nicholas Lancaster
Director, Innovation & Enterprise

Bedford Borough Council
9 June 2021

Dear Mr. Shortland,

Re: Levelling Up Fund

Thank you for making me aware of Bedford Borough Council's plans to apply for an award from the Levelling up Fund, for a number of projects with the emphasis on improving the economic environment in Kempston.

I am pleased to support the Council's bid, which I understand will concentrate on walking and cycling infrastructure and the regeneration of the town centre.

Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support the bid, and particularly the regeneration of Kempston Town Centre, which I understand will include public realm improvements around the Saxon Centre and the redevelopment of the Saxon Centre office block, to provide grade A flexible office accommodation and a space for community use.

The provision of quality new business space, on flexible terms is a key driver to support entrepreneurship and business. There is a dearth of new property supply in the area and much research has illustrated that businesses who want to occupy office space, demand a quality environment on flexible terms to boost productivity and enable them as small businesses to ability to operate flexibly and without restrictive lease commitments, which can stifle growth.

Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce represents 700+ businesses with around 60,000 employees across all sectors, we work at a local, national and international level to support businesses from sole traders to multinational corporations.

Small businesses are the bedrock of the Bedfordshire local economy and the business space proposed at the Saxon Centre office block will enable entrepreneurship and small businesses to flourish and grow.

Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce is keen to this project progress and looks forward to working with you on it.

Yours sincerely,



Justin Richardson
Chief Executive

Our partners



Jon Shortland
Bedford Borough Council

By email

17 June 2021

Dear Jon

Levelling Up Fund

SEMLEP are pleased to write in support of the Bedford Borough Council submission to the Levelling Up Fund and have reviewed the bid with our local authority partner. We see this bid as significant to delivery of the SEMLEP Economic Recovery Strategy 2020 and as part of the Place and Levelling Up agenda within the Ox Cam Arc.

We support the contribution the scheme would make to the:

- **Regeneration of Kempston** and the support for sustainable economic growth and communities in a deprived area of the South East Midlands.
- **Connectivity** of Kempston to the town centre of Bedford using walking and cycling to support the health and wellbeing of the town

We look forward to the engagement of the authority as these projects are appraised and are keen to support MHCLG with further details if helpful.

Yours sincerely



Judith Barker
Director of Programmes and Governance