

SALFORD LADS AND GIRLS CLUB: GREATER MANCHESTER

Upgrading works to be completed in 2015

An outline of the project proposals supported through the Lottery Improvement Fund are set out below. These will be followed through to post completion to assess the benefits of the range of interventions, new products and technologies.

New features

Environmental improvements will include:

- LED (light emitting diode) lighting to sports hall and other areas
- New boiler and heating system
- Improved accessibility throughout to include widening of staircases, recessed radiators and a new lift installation allowing wheelchair user access to upper levels
- Increased permitted capacity at any one time from 100 to 200 allowing larger events to be staged and increased revenue.

Predating the formation of the scout movement in 1904, Salford Lads and Girls Club provided affordable supervised activities for girls and boys between 10 and 20 years of age. The club offers a large sports hall, boxing gym, concert hall, snooker, pool and table tennis facilities within a Grade II listed building.

Sport England awarded the club £214,654 towards an overall budget of £286,205 to bring environmental and accessibility improvements and energy cost savings to the centre. The money, made available through Sport England's Improvement Fund, will be used to install LED lighting, a new boiler and heating system. It will also be used to improve accessibility throughout. The environmental upgrades are anticipated to save £12,000 on energy costs for the club per annum.

Bright future

The Club will be replacing aging metal halide lighting in the main sports hall with LED fittings. It is hoped that the flexibility that LED lights offer will provide significant savings. Currently the club use the lights constantly for 5 hours each night, leaving them on even when the hall is not in use. The instant start up feature of the LEDs will allow the lights to be switched off in between sessions.

Sustainable features

LED lighting has a number of features that will benefit the facility.

- **Saving money** – The increased efficiency of LED lighting is anticipated to make the total lifetime cost (purchase price plus cost of electricity and lamp replacement) significantly lower than metal halide lighting. Although the initial purchase price is higher, the payback period is significantly shorter due to reduced maintenance requirements and energy consumption.



Main entrance to the Grade II listed building



Sports hall to have LED lighting and improved heating



New heating for concert hall with recessed radiators

Improvement Fund Project Proposals

- **Reducing maintenance** - A typical LED light is stated to have an 'average life' of 20,000 hours (15 years at 4 hours/day), and will support 50,000 switch cycles. This will significantly reduce the overall maintenance costs since currently each metal halide bulb is changed a minimum of once a year.
- **Instant start up** - Metal halide bulbs require up to 15 minutes to fully warm up and reach optimum brightness when the gases burn at a high temperature. In addition, when power is lost, a metal halide bulb cannot be restarted until the ignition unit has cooled down which can typically take 10-15 minutes. LED lights have no such requirements for warming up or cooling down and can be easily switched off when the facilities are not in use.



New LED lighting to be installed in the boxing gym

Upgrading the facilities

The current boiler is close to the end of its economic lifespan and requires constant maintenance. It is to be replaced with a new efficient boiler that is more user friendly with significant savings anticipated of £12,000 annual heating bill.

A biomass boiler which burns wood chips or pellets was considered as an option but due to the location of the boiler room deep in the basement of the building, it would have proved impractical to install, operate and maintain.

Therefore, a conventional gas boiler has been selected that will give more flexibility. The new system will have five controllable zones so that individual parts of the club can be heated as required. Currently the boiler needs to heat the entire three storey building requiring being turned on three hours before the club opens and only reaches a modest temperature by the time children arrive.

Due to the building being listed, there are restrictions to the materials and fittings that can be used to maintain the aesthetics. As a result, cast iron radiators have been sourced for the concert hall where previously there has been no heating. Radiators will also be set into alcoves alongside the sports hall to increase accessibility through the facility.

Increasing the capacity

The final part of the project is the overhaul of the access arrangements. This will see the widening of staircases and installation of a lift to allow improved disabled access to the upper levels. This will increase the permitted capacity of the club at any one time from 100 to 200, allowing the club to stage larger events. The increased revenue will be reallocated through the club and will allow the fees paid by each child to remain at an affordable level in an area which falls within the top 2% for poverty in the country.

“*... This has been a crucial piece of funding which will significantly reduce the lighting and heating bills...*”

Secretary

Salford Lads and Girls Club



Energy savings will allow the club to continue offering affordable activities

Between 2012 and 2017...

the Improvement Fund will invest £45m of National Lottery funding into medium-sized projects that improve the quality and experience of sport.

The Improvement Fund aims to award capital grants worth £150,000 to £500,000 into sustainable projects with a clear local need.

The priorities for 2014 are projects that can clearly demonstrate environmental sustainability through changes to efficiency and usage of energy.

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