



AllianceLeisure

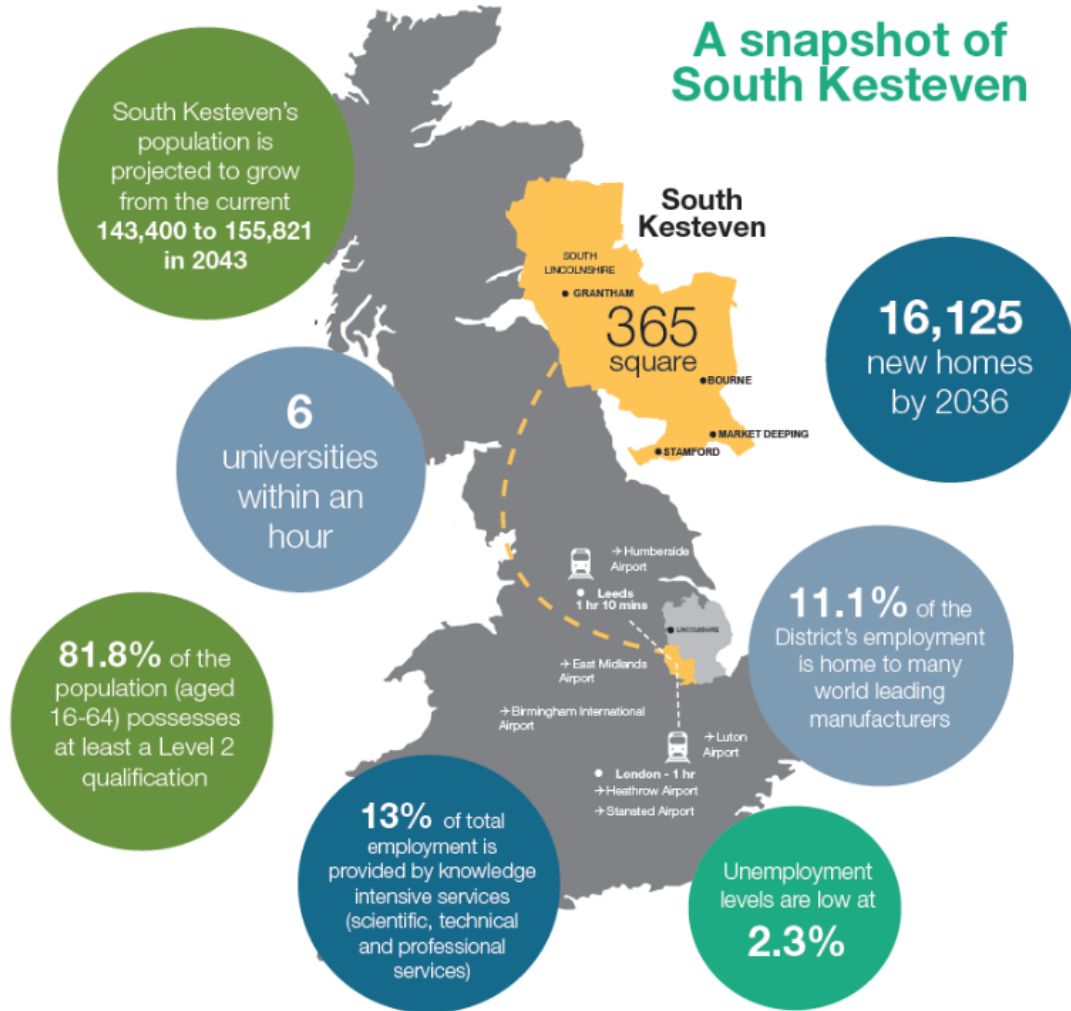
Future Ready Leisure: Grantham Meres Leisure Centre and the Net Zero Transition

Serena Brown - Sustainability and Climate Change Manager,
South Kesteven District Council

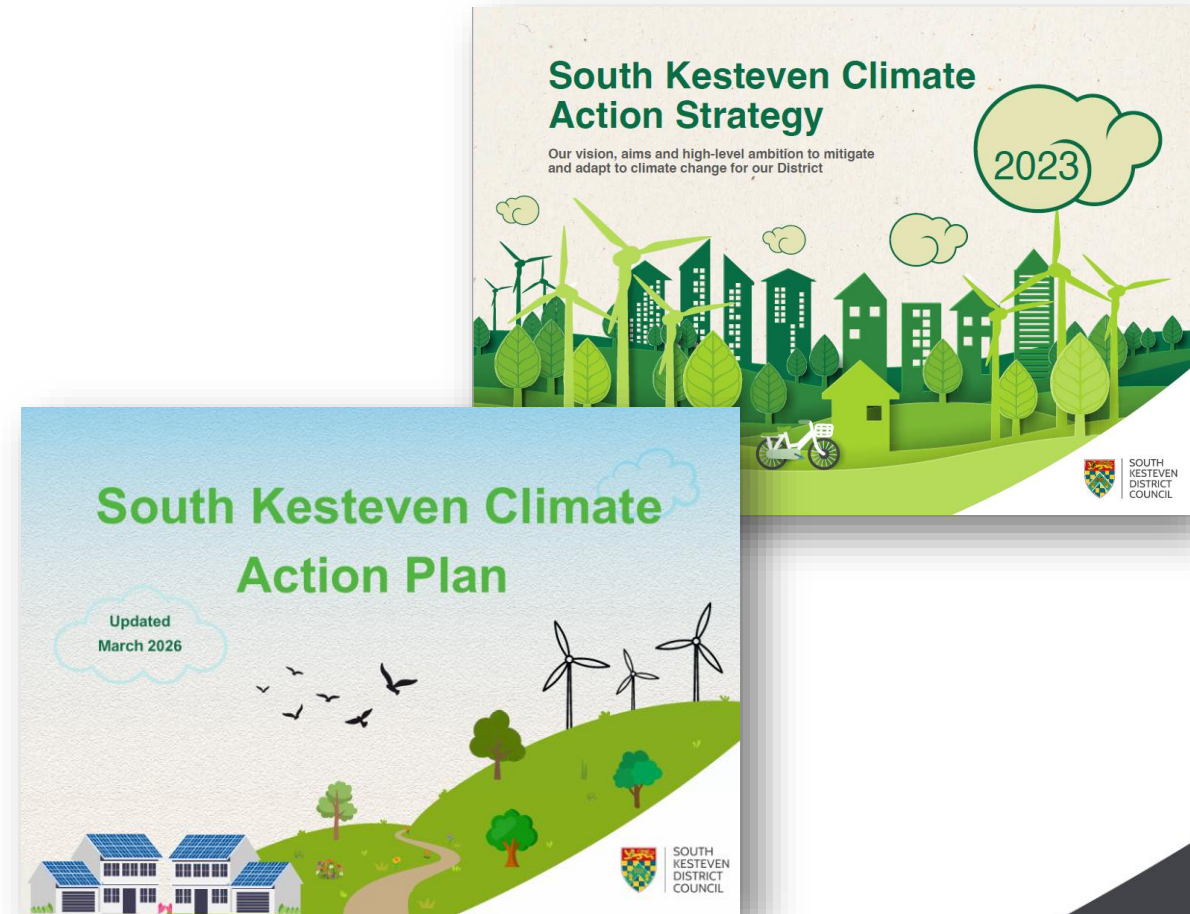
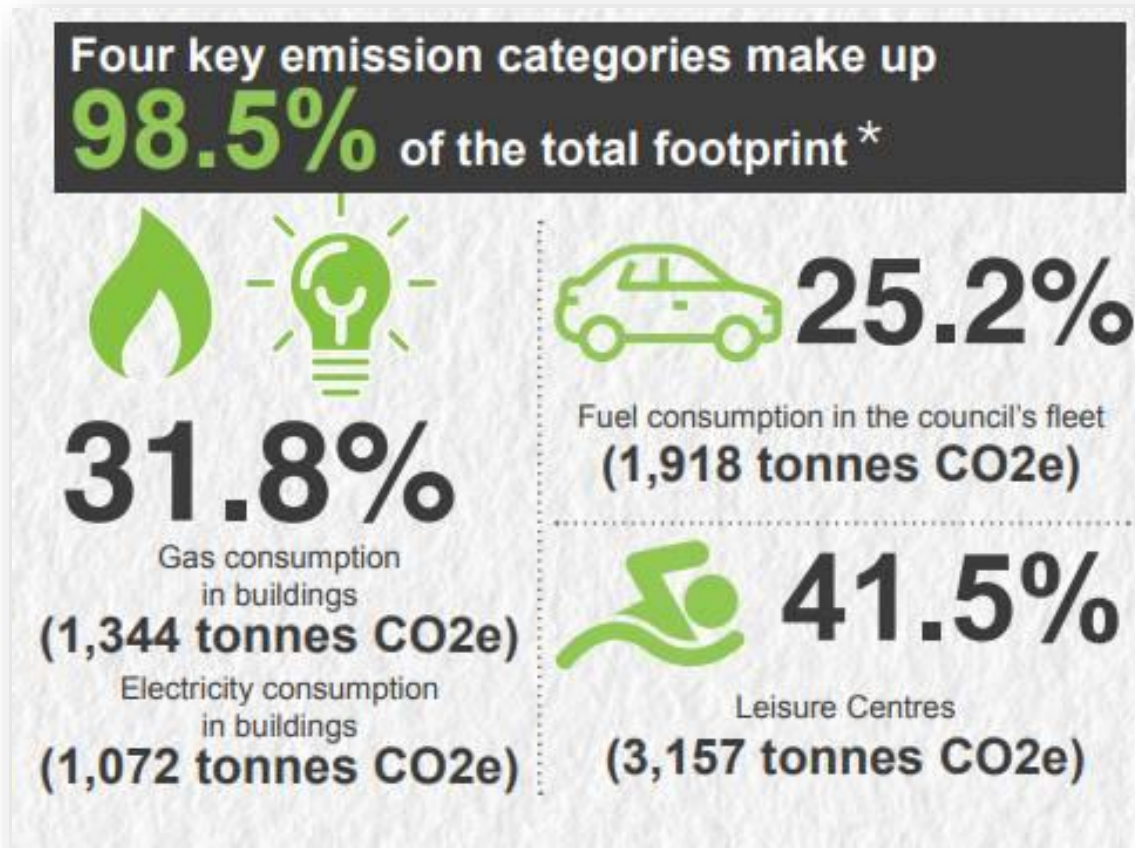


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COUNCIL

A snapshot of South Kesteven






South Kesteven District Council commitments



Crisis for leisure sector

- Energy crisis from 2022 had a huge impact on leisure sector
- Some centres reported utilities cost increasing by 300% compared to pre-2020
- Ageing facilities with historic backlog of maintenance issues
- SKDC completed energy audits and recommendations for the 3 centres in the district









Leisure SK Energy Proposal

Grantham Meres Leisure Centre
Bourne Leisure Centre
Stamford Leisure Pool

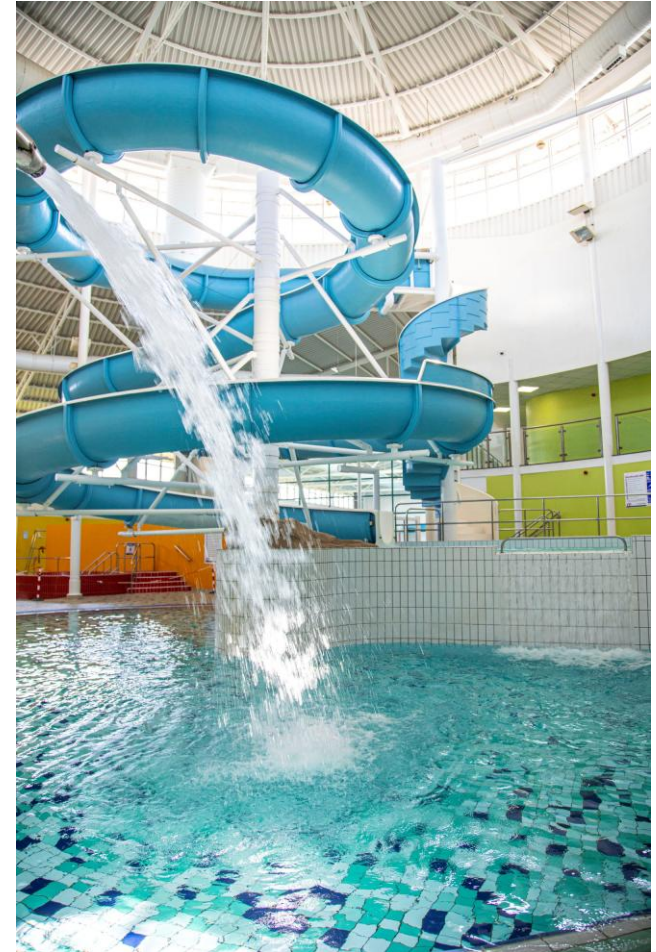
24th July 2023

287-291 Barbury Road
Oxford, OX2 7JQ
LeisureEnergyUK
www.leisure-energy.com



Grantham Meres Leisure Centre

- GMLC is the largest leisure facility in South Kesteven
- Managed by LeisureSK Ltd. from 2022
- Annual visits in 2025/26 over 400,000
- Long operating hours and high energy use – 15% of SKDC carbon emissions
- £685,000 utilities cost for 2023/24, up 300% from 2020/21



Grantham Meres Leisure Centre – funding identified



Swimming Pool Support Fund

We administered the government's £80 million fund for public swimming pools.



Phase 3c Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

An additional financial year of funding has been granted for Phase 3c of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.



Solar PV

- New system to add to existing panels
- In 2025, new solar provided over a third of centre's total electricity
- Additional revenue stream from solar export

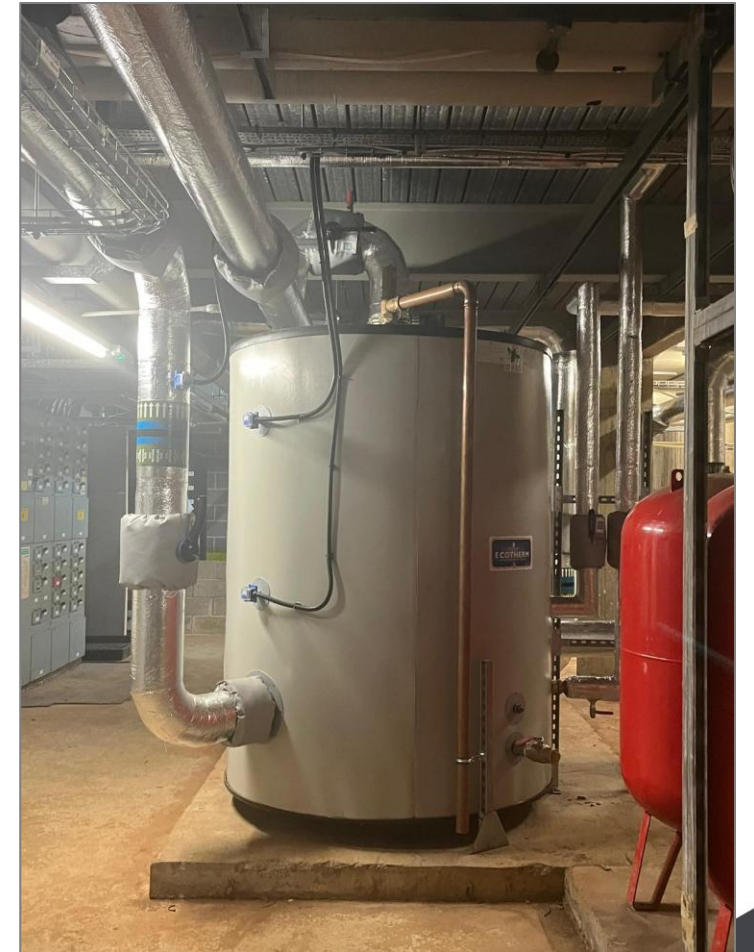
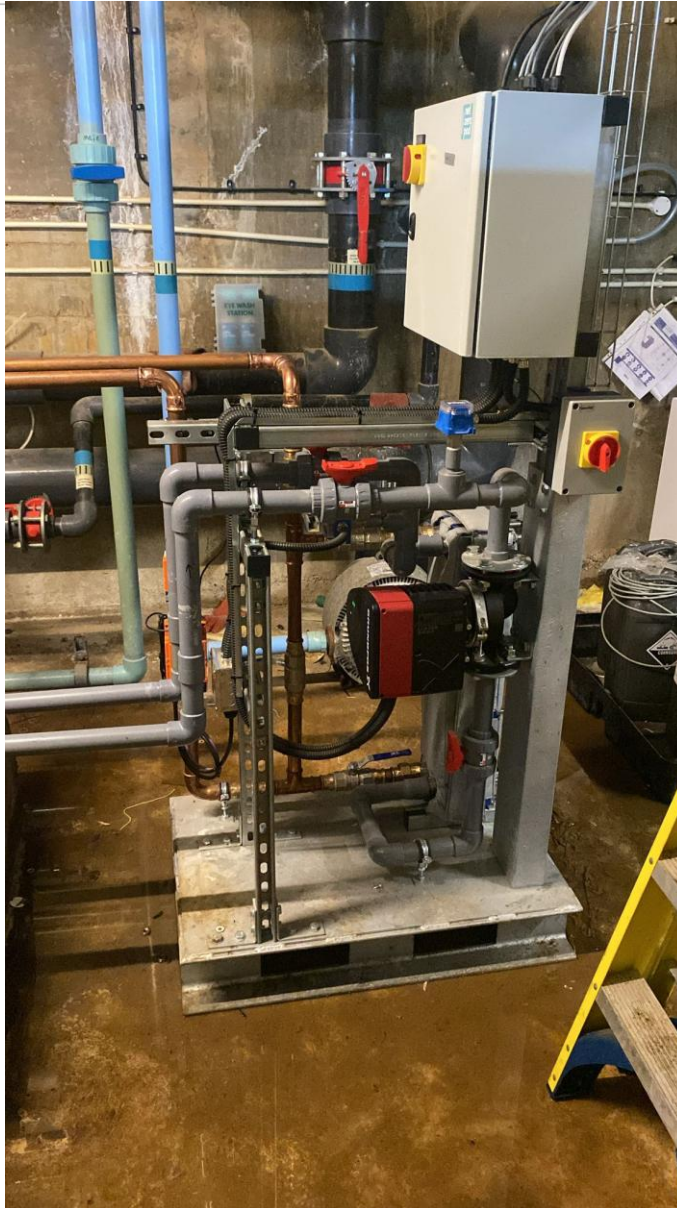


Wider energy upgrades

- New pool covers
- LED lighting upgrades – sports halls and 3G pitch
- Pool circulation pumps



Heating systems

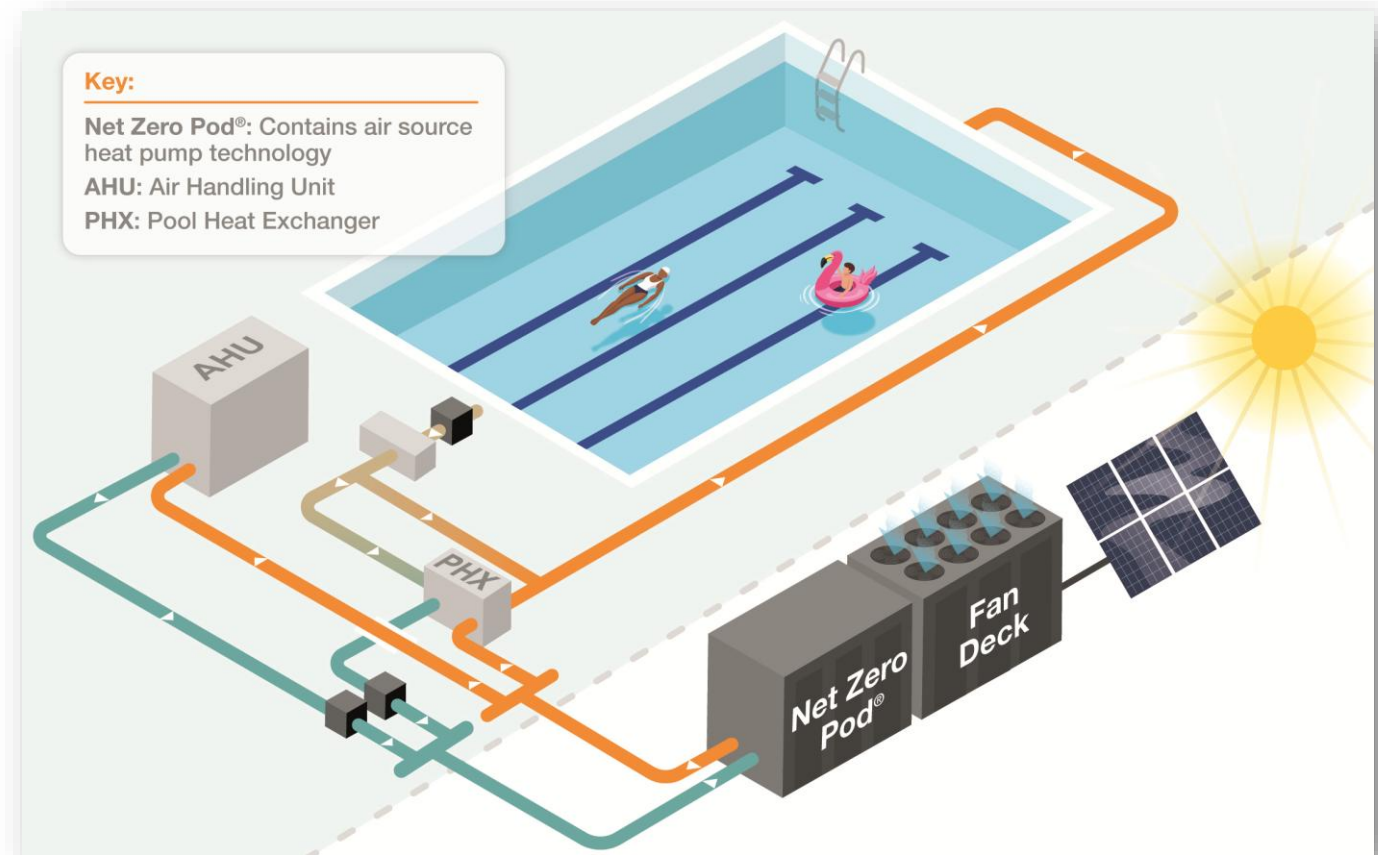


Net Zero Pod



Net Zero Pod ®

- R744 (CO₂) refrigerant
- sCOP 4+
- A unique solution to accommodate the site constraints and minimise impact on operations.



LeisureEnergy
Sustainable solutions



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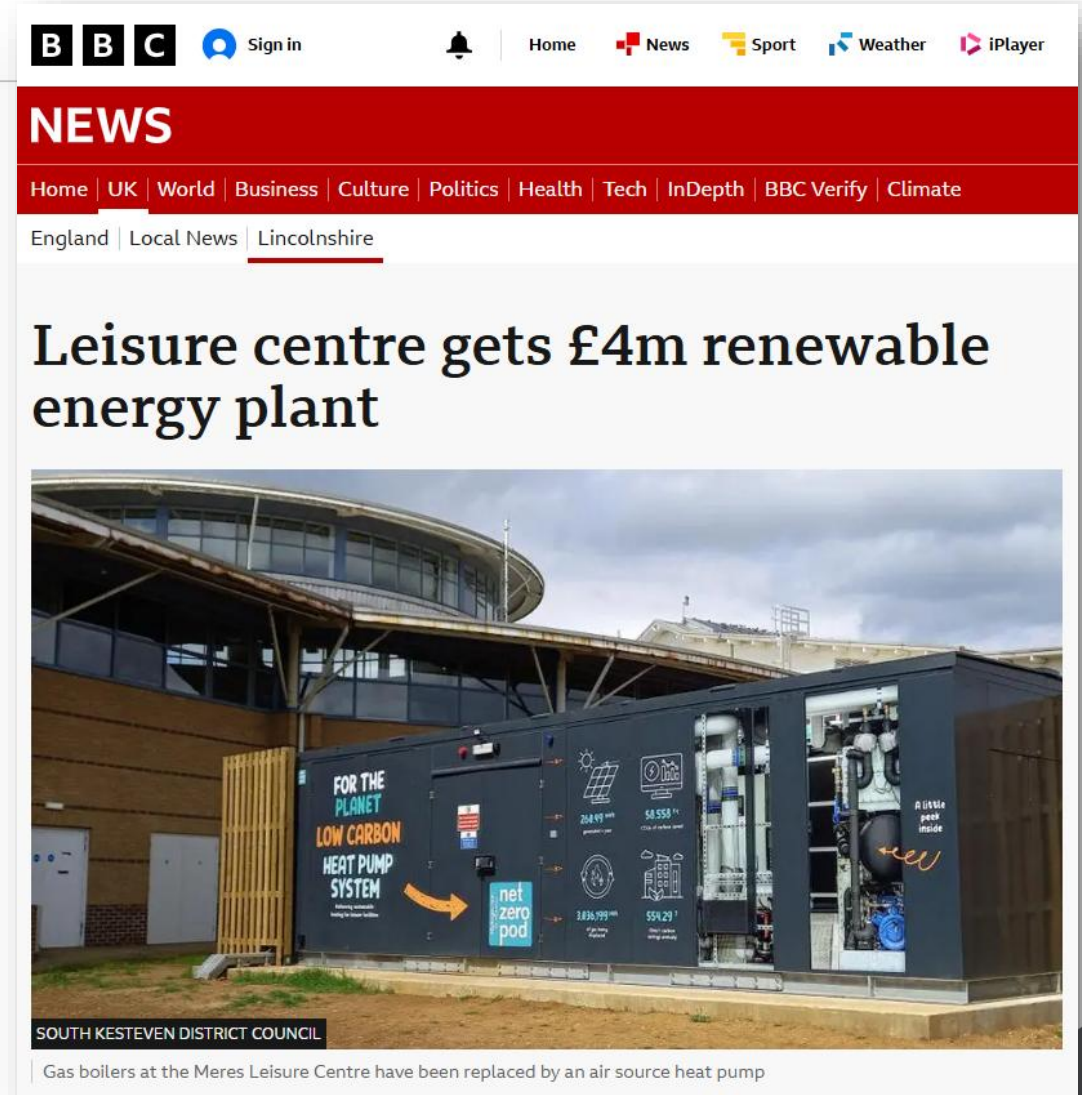
Investment in Grantham Meres leisure centre

Project	Funding source	Grant funding?	Project cost (£)
New pool covers on main and learner pool	Swimming Pool Support Fund Phase Two – Sport England	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£46,725
Additional solar PV	Swimming Pool Support Fund Phase Two – Sport England	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£397,898
LED upgrades to sports halls and outdoor sports pitch	SKDC Climate Change Reserve fund	<input type="checkbox"/>	£59,133
Net Zero Pod and supporting infrastructure	Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 3c – Salix Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimum 12% co-funding required	£4,144,922
Upgrade pool pump circulation equipment	SKDC Climate Change Reserve fund	<input type="checkbox"/>	£98,000
-	TOTAL	-	£4,746,678



Happy endings?

- Reduction in utility costs of £173k a year, including contribution from solar PV
- ~50% carbon saving compared to our baseline = 8% of total carbon emissions
- Net Zero ready building - will improve with decarbonisation of the grid
- Delivered biodiversity net gain upgrades to centre – 28 new trees planted on site and area around Net Zero Pod will establish as wildflower meadow



The image is a screenshot of a BBC News article. At the top, the BBC logo is visible on the left, and navigation links for 'Sign in', 'Home', 'News', 'Sport', 'Weather', and 'iPlayer' are on the right. Below the navigation is a red banner with the word 'NEWS' in white. Underneath the banner is a secondary navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'UK', 'World', 'Business', 'Culture', 'Politics', 'Health', 'Tech', 'InDepth', 'BBC Verify', and 'Climate'. Below this is a third navigation bar with links for 'England', 'Local News', and 'Lincolnshire'. The main headline of the article is 'Leisure centre gets £4m renewable energy plant'. Below the headline is a photograph of a large, dark blue industrial unit, the 'Net Zero Pod', installed outdoors. The unit has various panels and pipes. Text on the side of the unit includes 'FOR THE PLANET', 'LOW CARBON HEAT PUMP SYSTEM', and 'net zero pod'. A small sign on the right side of the unit says 'A little pod makes a difference'. Below the photograph, the text 'SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL' is visible. At the bottom of the screenshot, a caption reads: 'Gas boilers at the Meres Leisure Centre have been replaced by an air source heat pump'.



Challenges

- Integration with wider centre
- Decommissioning of existing CHP units
- Design and feasibility considerations
- Cost of electricity versus gas
- Reporting (!)
- Utilisation – membership at Grantham Meres LC still 30% lower than its pre-2020 levels



Successes

- Identify any potential funding streams as soon as possible and associated deadlines
- Prioritise property portfolio – best fit buildings
- Project team with representation across departments
- Decide internal funding support and start those discussions early



Thanks for listening

<https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/climateneews>



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