

Financing city-wide decarbonised heat networks



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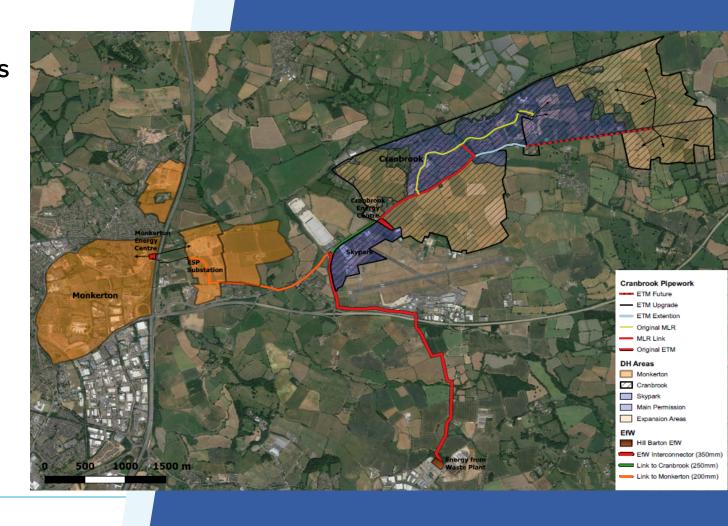
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Exeter Residential Interconnector

- Cranbrook and Monkerton 8,100 homes and 2.2million sq foot of commercial space
- 5,000 homes to come
- Interconnector pipe and distribution company owned by EDDC
- EfW supplied heat
- Eon bulk purchaser





Approaches to funding

- Public sector sources of funding:
 - HNDU, LCSF, PSDS, HNIP, GNHF
- GHNF £288m capital investment programmed providing for the capital costs of heat networks
- Since its inception, HNDU has run 12 funding rounds – awarding £33.8 million in total – and is currently running Round 13. Over 300 unique projects have so far been supported across 188 local authorities. Round 13 open till December 2023





- Cambridge city-wide scheme
 - Council and University collaboration
 - Council-owned ESCo intended

- Stockport Council scheme
 - 29 identified heat off-takers
 - Council-owned ESCo intended







Cross-public sector collaborations



Benefits

- Increased scale leads to lower heat price for all
- Alignment of Net Zero strategies
- Lower set up and governance costs
- Easier grant applications
- Heat Zoning
- Eases balance sheet pressures

Risks

- Pace
- Misaligned expectations between institutions
- Range of separate governance hurdles and gateways
- Appetite to capital and borrowing acquisition
- Squabbling with the neighbours



Understanding the funding market

- Matching grants with investment
 - Schemes with grants are typically more successful

- Schemes need to balance:
 - Capital investment (Costs of finance, D&B costs, O&M costs)
 - Heat price to customers
 - Indexation regime
 - **Connection charges**
 - Standing charges and lease fees





The role of the public sector/ councils

- Facilitators and policy levers
 - Net Zero plan alignment
 - Regional leadership
- Anchor heat customer & procurement strategy direction
 - Procurement leadership and control
 - **Use of Council procurement function**
 - Anchor tenant for heat solution
- Financially embedded ESCo incorporation
 - Council owned ESCo investing in 'kit', providing heat to its constituent boundaries
 - Single source investment or partnership with private sector (JV)





Capital constraints and solutions

- Balance sheet problem
 - NHS Trusts have no capital nor can they enter into long term financial arrangements or leases
 - Many councils do not have borrowing capacity
- Solutions:
 - Understanding the NHS accounting and budgeting regulations
 - Appropriate commercial structuring to manage accounting consequences
 - Heat price setting to recover full investment



TRIED AND TESTED PROCESS

- Understanding the key workstreams:
 - Technical options appraisals for decarbonised heat solutions
 - Outline Business Case and Financial Modelling
 - Funding applications (e.g. GHNF)
 - Governance and approval gateways
 - Full Business Case
 - Procurement and commercialisation





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