



National Developments – Response Form

Please use the table below to let us know about projects you think may be suitable for national development status. You can also tell us your views on the existing national developments in National Planning Framework 3, referencing their name and number, and providing reasons as to why they should maintain their status. Please use a separate table for each project or development. **Please fill in a [Respondent Information Form](#) and return it with this form to scotplan@gov.scot.**

Name of proposed national development	Common Heat (National Centre for Community Heating)
Brief description of proposed national development	<p>Leveraging the engineering base in North East Scotland to develop a national hub for district heating excellence and supporting a just transition for the offshore oil industry.</p> <p>Aberdeen has one of Scotland’s largest district heating schemes; Inverurie in Aberdeenshire is the proposed site for what would be the biggest district heating scheme in the UK, if it were it to exist today.</p> <p>Developing a national centre for excellence in community heating would leverage these two schemes by expanding and linking them into a true “fourth generation” district heating scheme. The development would also tap into existing engineering expertise in the North East, contributing to a viable pathway towards a just transition for the North Sea offshore oil industry.</p>

	<p>The development would also expand and refine the use of "anchor" developments and customers in the deployment of district heating.</p>
<p>Location of proposed national development (information in a GIS format is welcome if available)</p>	<p>Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire</p> <p>-</p> <p>2.38983 57.2911</p>
<p>What part or parts of the development requires planning permission or other consent?</p>	<p>District heating networks and the heat sources to power them are infrastructure heavy projects with significant above ground and below ground components requiring planning consents and environmental approvals.</p> <p>The foundation projects in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire share the essential characteristic of connecting existing build households and businesses to the network, which brings additional challenges in relation to approvals at the most local of levels – convincing neighbourhoods, streets and houses to connect to the heating network.</p> <p>The development will also explore the tension in planning issues related to heating corridors and conflict of use - e.g. transport corridors - and opportunities that may arise with good planning policy</p>
<p>When would the development be complete or operational?</p>	<p>The Aberdeen Heat and Power network is already operational but is constantly undergoing expansion as more customers connect to the network. The Inverurie Heat Network would commence operations in approximately 2025 and likewise would continue to expand after</p>

	launch as new customers connected to the network.
Is the development already formally recognised – for example identified in a development plan, has planning permission, in receipt of funding etc.	No
<p>Contribution of proposed national development to the national development criteria (maximum 500 words):</p> <p>Major contribution to meeting targets for reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases</p> <p>Dramatically increasing the uptake of low carbon, low cost heat</p> <p>Improve equality by eliminating that part of fuel poverty derived from heating costs</p> <p>Air quality improvements in cities and towns (removal of gas boilers in urban environment), helping improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Scotland</p> <p>Demonstrating that larger, connected district heating systems with multiple sources of heat are more resilient - interconnection is important (Fourth Generation District Heating)</p> <p>Education and training skills in the deployment of district heating technologies - just transition and industrial skills-base transfer from carbon to low-carbon energy</p> <p>A community-led business model will seek to extend the benefits if low carbon and communal heat beyond the connected houses into the surrounding rural communities.</p>	

Leslie
Place

Keep In Touch

For more information and other resources



<http://www.transformingplanning.scot>



<https://blogs.gov.scot/planning-architecture/>



[@ScotGovPlanning](https://twitter.com/ScotGovPlanning)



scotplan@gov.scot