



District Heating Steering Group (DHSG)

Meeting Note from meeting #7 21st July 2022

Attendees

- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI)
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)
- Dublin City Council (DCC)
- South Dublin County Council (SDCC)
- National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA)
- National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI)
- City of Dublin Energy Management Agency (Codema)

1. Agreement of 23rd June 2022 meeting note

Note of the meeting of 23rd June was agreed.

2. Denmark Fact Finding Trip

Following on from a summary report circulated prior to the meeting, DECC provided a brief review of the district heating fact finding trip to Denmark. The trip provided insights into the scale of heat provision that District Heating (DH) can provide and the potential range of energy sources. It also highlighted the use of the local or community ownership model of district heating in Denmark.

3. Strategic Direction of District Heating Feedback

The DHSG had been requested, by the Research and Policy Insights Working Group, to provide strategic direction to inform the expansion of DH in Ireland. DECC circulated a paper prior to the DHSG meeting and received feedback. A number of key issues were identified. A summary paper was subsequently prepared by DECC, and this was the subject of discussion by the Group. The following were the key issues raised:

- Establishment of national agency/unit to support rollout of DH.
- Flexibility in relation to allocation of funds/resources.
- Targeted funding across the whole lifecycle of DH projects, including residential grants.
- Balanced approach in relation to focus on urban areas and smaller-scale projects.
- Study of economic viability of DH in areas off-gas grid and to ensure Value for Money



(VFM) of State investments.

- Planning for DH on basis of viable heat sources.
- Phasing of rollout to inform later phases and understanding competitiveness with other heat sources.
- Communications strategy/ Public acceptance has emerged as an important theme.

4. DH Ownership Structure

A further discussion around potential ownership and financing models for DH took place. Of key importance is whether DH should follow a Local authority driven model or become a National Utility. The financial model used will also be of critical importance.

The need for additional funding for expansion of existing DH projects, in particular the Tallaght District Heating Scheme (TDHS), was highlighted. DECC is to make enquiries with the Climate side of the Department in relation to the structure of the Climate Action Fund and any possibilities it might offer in this regard going forward.

5. Next Steps

The below actions were agreed to.

6. Any other Business (AOB)

There was no AOB.

7. Table of Actions

	Action	Assigned to
1	DHSG report to be finalised by October.	DECC
2	DECC to write to Local Authority Chief Executives by end of week in relation to LAs examining their own Development Plans and identifying policies already in place to support district.	DECC
3	DECC to consult with relevant climate division in relation to the potential for further funding of DH from the Climate Action Fund.	DECC