

Reflections from the Stratego Coaching Session 2 (Scotland / Denmark)

3) What aspects of the Danish approach do you think could be applied in Scotland? What would need to happen to enable that to happen?

- Any of the DH schemes would work in our area. More expert assistance from government for business cases. Financial support and local member buy-in.
- A more community-based / community-led approach to domestic heating. This needs local political commitment and national support.
A progressive tax / incentives system that would stimulate investment and innovation – this needs to be UK / Scottish Government intervention.
Greater awareness / planning for long term energy and specifically heating strategy (I mean generic public awareness / buy-in) – This is about national and local policies that are clear and consistent and well communicated.
A flexible approach to fuel sourcing – I was interested in the fact that many DH schemes were using different sources at different times.
- The return of control of energy provision and networks back to local authorities.
Clear national government policy on addressing and supply of heat demand.
- Buy-in from businesses, educational institutions, NHS, etc. Partnerships have to be firmed up so a working model can be established and this is well on the way in part of our city.
- A cultural change is required to enable the community model, developing trust in the public sector.
A set of technical standards for DH procurement is required to enable reliable estimates of customer price.
- Commitment across all levels; Government, municipalities and customers is very impressive, clearly a key to success of DH in Denmark. A change of attitude needed in Scotland to realise the market benefits of DH.
- I think the municipal approach to delivering DH schemes could very easily be applied in Scotland, where the city or regional authority starts to take responsibility for developing practical strategies for developing networks where they are needed and can make a difference (i.e. new commercial and domestic developments and fuel poor areas).
We need to build on the current enthusiasm for developing arms length ESCOs, which are given financial backing from the local authority, and given a mandate to start developing networks. The ESCOs also need to use the not-for-profit model where any revenue generated is ring-fenced and reinvested back into the ESCO to finance future projects.
We need stronger planning regulations within LA Local Development Plans, to place requirements on developers to at least consider sustainable energy options such as DH. In many LDPs this is missing and there are no requirements places on developers. In large cities where developers are queuing up to get into the city, they will absolutely engage in discussions to provide DH if required to.

- Cooperative and community owned / crowd funded schemes. Local partnerships with companies that generate heat as a by-product.
To do this it needs:
 - Cheap, simple finance and subsidised expertise and advice for communities.
 - Local champions, simple processes – planning guidance, awareness raising with producers of waste heat.
 - Councils to share good practice and expertise. What went right and what went wrong in existing projects.
- Develop working examples in Scotland which act as representation for others to see as models to follow. This may need active “hand holding” of local authorities by Scottish Government.
- We can use the “business case” approach: opportunity – calculations – project – approval – delivery.
We need to have access to a ‘calculations’ tool, learn how to use it and use it on real life projects. We need have access to expertise and build up our own expertise on an on-going basis. It may be useful to create / develop a centre of expertise for public sector organisations using experience from the Stratego project, Heat Network Partnership, and other relevant networks. It would be good to link “virtual” expertise to “real life” demonstrators where technologies can be seen.
- Two things stand out to me as key differences between Denmark and Scotland. Firstly the provision of heat as a social good without profit. Secondly, the community level scale of provision. The complexity of retrofitting suitable piping infrastructure is a key issue. To get schemes “over the start line! In Scotland, not just firm planning guidance, but cast iron national backing is needed, for local authorities to insist on DH in new developments and set up community based suppliers to promote heat (and power) in a social context.
- Development of energy plan needs to be given some statutory basis perhaps through supplementary guidance to the local development plan. Perhaps no legislative change is required if Scottish Planning Policy gives a clear lead.
Consistent appraisal mechanism.
Compulsory connection – needs legislation
Clearly needs public sector lead, but like the community owned model which sits well with the Community Empowerment Act.
- There is the potential to really engage with communities at a new level with a positive purpose.
- The Danish attitude to heat! The importance of heat in society seems to be more widely accepted and recognised in Denmark. Heat is required to allow us to live healthily in our homes, and along with water it is something that all households should be able to access at lowest cost possible. And it is vital this heat should be sourced in a sustainable and secure manner.
Heat should be a national priority in Scotland. Our current attitude to heating results in the deaths of people, into the thousands, and places great strain on our heat services (both physical and mental health). A fundamental re-think in how we deliver more affordable heat is required. We can’t keep tinkering around with schemes that will never address the problems.
- Mandatory connection to DH for all new builds
No tax for solar thermal heat
Encourage industry to engage with DH network operators to sell heat at low cost for economical / affordable heat for homes

Encourage diversity in heat fuel towards a low / zero fossil based fuels
Encourage DH to householders.

4) Is there anything you would like to change or add in your work as a result of what you have learnt on this trip?

- I will actively now pursue an appropriate DH scheme within my council area. Danish contacts will also be appreciated going forward with our future DH schemes.
- A clearer 'heating strategy'.
More coordinated approach within the council and with partners
Using tackling fuel poverty as a positive driver for change
Being realistic about lead in times / project development and management
Not viewing this as principally a 'technical project'.
The need for wider (and earlier) public engagement in projects.
The need to build trust and confidence in new and different models.
- Reviewing all stages [?] so far achieved to challenge and test findings and assumptions.
Testing out the resolve of partners signed up to our City Strategy including my own local authority.
- I now have to take all I have learned back to the politicians and get them to look at the projects and convince them of the logic of such a project. Dundee is compact and the biggest issue will be the actual pipework installation and cost of that infrastructure. The trip has given knowledge of the projects in the Aalborg area. It has shown that there has to be incentives and longevity when it comes to this type of project and being able to provide heat cheaper than the Big 6 can.
- I would be keen to better understand the technical issues around storage. This would allow effective targeting of potential storage sites using the heat map.
- I'm currently producing a developers' guide to sustainable energy, highlighting the benefits of incorporating various technologies such as DH into a development. This visit will be extremely useful in helping to inform this guidance. It will also help to inform the ESCO we are developing in our city, in terms of the variety of roles that the ESCO could adopt in developing DH, such as designing and building schemes, operation and maintenance or metering and billing. This is something that the site visits were very useful for.
- Ensure that DH is not seen in isolation as something for social housing only.
Check for Edinburgh supplementary planning guidance on DH.
Opportunities for new build homes – what incentives are there to do DH rather than individual gas boilers? What should be written into the new city housing strategy 2017 – 2022? (which is being consulted on and written in 2016)
Fit with the City coalition pledge on developing coops but opposing biomass
Raise awareness (with managers and councillors) of multiple heat sources that can feed into a DH network.
- Would love to work on a solar thermal heat storage project.
Implement much better cycling infrastructure.
Get DH projects started.
- Developing district heating networks takes time and we need to learn to be patient. We need to be ambitious in our vision, but realistic in our delivery – starting small to build up expertise and trust.

Very important to base decisions on clear rationale and involve key decision makers at an early stage.

Make sure to use expertise which is available.

- Learning will undoubtedly feed in to my work. Very grateful for the opportunity to join,
- I will be able to argue for, and support others who put forward, local schemes that exploit the undoubted opportunities we have (with strong national backing) to supply heat (and power) (1) more efficiently, (2) at a lower cost to communities and (3) with profit reinvested in local improvement. Strong national backing though, is needed to defeat the vested interests in the multi-national power companies that dominate provision currently, and housing developers that will always seek the easiest (existing context) way of making profits.
- My key aim is to get support from our senior leadership, to put resources into a dedicated project lead(s) – it can't be done as a part-time add-on to a day job. I would also like this form emailed to give time for a more considered response – perhaps jointly from across the council.
- To form a steering group and possibly a company to move the agenda forward.
- Our approach to consumer engagement when developing projects will hopefully improve.

Potentially look at a different strategy to developing schemes, and which ones are brought forward.

There is an opportunity to improve community engagement and maybe empower the community.

I now have a better understanding of heat storage so I will investigate the potential further.

The opportunity to include solar thermal and/or storage alongside our proposed EfW plant.

- (1) Explore options for solar thermal storage where heat (using water tanks) can be stored over summer months for use in winter to help with baseload / peaks.
- (2) Explore options for using waste heat from industrial processes for use in DH.
- (3) Encourage more DH connections by ensuring that heat price can be economical in the longer term.