

**Embargo: Noon on 08 June 2000**

## **WELCOME NEW BOOST FOR COMMUNITY HEATING**

The Government's backing for the pioneering Transco Affordable Warmth Scheme has been welcomed today by the Combined Heat and Power Association.

Commenting, CHPA Director David Green said:

*"We are delighted that the arrangements the Chancellor has put in place to enable Transco to deliver its innovative affordable warmth scheme is making specific provision for the use of community heating – the key to the wider use of CHP in many neighbourhoods."*

*Already Leicester City Council have outlined how they will be freeing up their own hard pressed capital resources by using the Affordable Warmth scheme to connect 750 homes to community heating with the leasable elements underwritten by Transco".*

The CHPA has been working closely with Transco in a special development programme through which the national gas pipeline company has:

- Funded detailed CHP studies on a number of brownfield sites.
- Supported feasibility studies for over 30 MWe of new CHP plant, at least a third of which are now in the initial stages of development.
- Enabled leading local authorities to take forward wide ranging reviews of the potential for CHP and community heating in their communities.

Further action by other leading companies is now being planned to invest in a new generation of community heating.

*"Community heating puts neighbourhoods in charge of their energy future; stimulates re-investment in local neighbourhoods and is a key part of the agenda to tackle fuel poverty."*

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*Transco is to be congratulated on this new chapter in the drive to tackle fuel poverty and climate change.*

*Thousands of vulnerable households and the environment stand to benefit from the wider use of community heating and I know we all look forward to ensuring this happens, both now, and with the strategic support of OFGEM, in the longer term”*

concludes David Green.

**ENDS**

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

1. Community Heating is a piped network for distributing heating from a local CHP system to both households and businesses. The cities of Sheffield, Nottingham and Southampton as well as the City of London, all make extensive use of such systems. The Central Government area of Whitehall has its owned dedicated energy supply based on community heating and CHP.
2. The current Finance Bill makes specific provision for tax allowances for (moveable) plate heat exchangers in order to stimulate connection to, and the development of community heating, as part of Affordable Warmth Programme.

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