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For Immediate Release

PLANNING SUPPORTS MOVE TO DECENTRALISE HEAT AND POWER

New Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change highlights how the use of decentralised energy systems is key to helping reduce carbon emissions

The Combined Heat and Power Association welcomes today's announcement by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government that a new Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change is to be introduced.

The new measures announced today by Ruth Kelly will encourage developers of new housing projects to make greater use of decentralised energy systems such as Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and district energy.

Phil Piddington, Director of the CHPA stated:

"The Association is pleased with the Government's requirement that new developments should be located and designed to optimise carbon performance.

"We particularly welcome Government proposals enabling planners to ensure that house builders incorporate decentralised energy systems in the significant number of housing projects planned across the UK.

"High efficiency CHP with district energy can help provide communities with affordable warmth whilst helping reduce carbon emissions. Today's announcement will help drive investment into new CHP projects, helping the Government achieve not only its 2010 CHP target, but also its fuel poverty commitments."

ENDS

NOTES:

1. *Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change (Supplement to PPS 1)* was launched today for consultation by Rt Hon Ruth Kelly MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Released alongside the PPS was a further consultation document – Building a Greener

Future: Towards Zero Carbon Development – which builds upon the Chancellor's recent Pre-Budget Report statement that all new homes developed will be zero carbon by 2016.

Also released today by Government was the final version of the Code for Sustainable Homes which includes the use of CHP and district heating as options which will help homes comply to the Code's higher rating standards.

2. Combined Heat and Power (CHP) is the simultaneous generation of electricity and useful heat in a combined, highly efficient process. The Government's target is to double UK CHP capacity to 10,000 MW by 2010.

CHP is a form of decentralised energy system i.e. generation technologies, which provide power, heat (and/or cooling) at the point of use. These range from microgeneration technologies operating in individual homes to community based systems such as those operating in Southampton or indeed large industrial CHP schemes powering over 200 industrial schemes in the UK at present.

3. Decentralised Energy Supply: Energy supply from local renewable or low carbon sources usually on a relatively small scale and including electricity generation, which is connected to the distribution networks (distributed energy) rather than directly to national transmissions. Decentralised Energy is a broad term used to denote a wide range of technologies, which can serve an individual building, development or wider community.

4. The Government's latest statistics show that every 1 MW of CHP operating in the UK helps reduce carbon emissions by between 600 – 800 tonnes every year. Current installed CHP capacity of approximately 5,700 MW, on over 1,500 sites across the UK, is already helping deliver savings of over four million tonnes of carbon annually, one of the largest single carbon reduction measures in the Government's Climate Change Programme.

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