Heat accounts for \approx \frac{1}{3} UK CO_2 emissions
Why heat networks

- Use of heat sources not practical on an individual build level eg:
  - heat pump from river
  - gas CHP plant
  - solar thermal with inter-seasonal storage
  - heat from energy from waste plant
  - wood chip

*These all supply low cost, low carbon heat.*

Pipework very expensive so need:
  - high heat loads close together
  - all local buildings to connect
  - cheap capital

Benefit to customers:
  - reliable, low carbon, hopefully cheap heat.
Support to assess and develop heat networks

- Rural Community Energy Fund – £20k for community organisations to look at community energy projects
- BEIS - HNDU funds 70% of cost of feasibility studies – but funding is to Local Authorities
- BEIS – HNIP £300m of capital funding for heat networks, grants or very low cost loans (probably up to 30% of total capital cost) but only available until 2021
- Community benefit funds from other co-ops

This is best support heat networks have had in 20 years..... Need to seize the opportunity!
My view of the opportunity

Solid wall houses – some too attractive to insulate

All buildings in conservation areas – mostly solid wall

*These have high heat demands are packed closely together and have limited other options to lower carbon*

Better benefit where there is no gas, as convectional alternatives have drawbacks e.g.:

- oil (hassle)
- electric heating (expensive)

**Barriers**

Technically – all possible,

Economically – hard work, £300 million to help!

Willing customers? - the big challenge....

I think co-ops key to encouraging people to connect

-how many people would voluntarily connect to a monopoly heat supply from a ‘big six energy supplier’

We must learn from the success of all the Danish district heating co-ops