

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 12 March 2024

International Travel to Denmark

Executive/routine
Wards

Executive
All

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Policy and Sustainability Committee:
 - 1.1.1 Note that the Scottish Government, in collaboration with the Danish Board of District Heating (DBDH), the Danish Energy Agency (DEA) and the Royal Danish Embassy in London have created a 12-month District Heating Mentoring Programme. Two Council officers are participating in this programme; and
 - 1.1.2 Approve participation of a Council officer in a visit to Denmark as part of this programme. The costs associated with this visit will be funded from the LHEES budget.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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International Travel to Denmark

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report requests permission for a Council officer to visit Denmark to participate in the Heat Network Mentoring Programme arranged by the Scottish Government, Danish Board of District Heating (DBDH), the Danish Energy Agency (DEA) and the Royal Danish Embassy in London.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Scottish Government, the DBDH, the DEA and the Royal Danish Embassy in London have developed a Heat Network Mentoring Programme. The programme brings together senior members from Danish district heating companies with Scottish local authority officers to share knowledge and learnings about heat networks in order to help accelerate the roll-out of heat networks in Scotland.
- 3.2 Two officers from the Council have participated in the Mentoring Programme since 2023. Workshops have been held virtually and in-person to explore the options for establishing and delivering heat networks within local authorities and to discuss matters such as network expansion, billing, heat supply, and customer relations.

4. Main report

- 4.1 This report seeks approval for a Council officer to travel to Denmark from 16 - 8 April 2024 to attend a two-day tour of heat network facilities and mentoring session on 17 and 18 April 2024 as part of the aforementioned Heat Network Mentoring Programme. The associated travel, accommodation and meal costs will be met from the existing LHEES office budget.
- 4.2 The purpose of the mentoring trip is to build capacity for the development of heat networks in Edinburgh through the mentors' sharing of experience and knowledge, bespoke advice on the establishment of heat networks, and expertise on the planning and design of district heating systems including exploring models of public and local authority ownership. The view is that this would be a beneficial trip to

expand the capacity of the LHEES office and increase the knowledge within the Council of operating and establishing locally led heat network models.

- 4.3 The trip will provide tours to facilities where waste heat is captured using air- and water-source heat pumps. While Edinburgh does not have a large-scale heat-from-waste incinerator (albeit the Millerhill energy from waste plant in Midlothian is part owned by the Council), waste heat is produced in Edinburgh from a variety of sources (including from the super-computers, bakeries, data centres, distilleries and other sites). Understanding how this technology can be utilised would be extremely valuable for delivering Action 64 of the Delivery Plan (*Engage with waste heat sources in Edinburgh to improve understanding of the scope to utilise their waste heat for heating buildings*).
- 4.4 Recently, an officer from East Lothian Council (working on East Lothian's LHEES) attended Denmark for the same heat network tour, which featured tours to six different heat network companies, presentations from the Danish Board on heat network development, and mentoring sessions (including visiting sites with a range of heat sources including energy from waste, large scale air and sea source heat pumps, solar thermal, thermal storage, electric boilers, waste heat from industrial sources, wind turbines, solar PV farms and more). Topics covered included the value of heat storage for ensuring the lowest cost heat was being utilised every hour of the day. The officer has highlighted the value which they received from the trip.
- 4.5 Previous attendees of similar trips have included officers and managers from local authorities in Scotland and England, and representatives from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) as well as the UK Infrastructure Bank.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If Committee approve this visit, feedback from the visit will be provided as part of a future Committee Business Bulletin.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The proposed cost of the trip includes return airfare¹ from the Central Belt, two nights hotel accommodation, and expenses to cover two breakfasts and two dinners. The Danish mentors will cover the cost of transport within Denmark, lunch on both days of the tour as well as dinner on the first evening of the tour. Approximate costs are set out in Table 1 in section 6.3.
- 6.2 It is recommended that the officer should travel the day before the tour begins as arriving on the first day of activities would require arriving at the airport in time for a

¹ Please see Section 6 which justifies a flight in this instance rather than train or ferry and train.

4am flight followed by a full day of activities. This means that a two-night stay in Copenhagen will be required.

- 6.3 The approximate costs are shown below in Table 1 and are proposed to be met by the 2024/25 LHEES Office budget.

Table 1 Approximate Cost of International Travel to Denmark

Expense	Cost
Round trip flight	£117
Travel in Denmark	£0
Breakfast – Day 2 & 3	40
Lunch Day 2 & 3	£0
Dinner – Day 1 & 3	£60
Hotel for 2 nights	£252
Total	£434

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 The proposed officer travel does not have any direct impacts of poverty and equality, however, one of the central drivers of the Edinburgh LHEES is the Scottish Government statutory target to achieve, by 2040, no more than 5% of households in Scotland in fuel poverty and no more than 1% of households in Scotland in extreme fuel poverty.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 It is proposed that the Council officer travels by air from Scotland to Copenhagen as there are no direct train services available.
- 8.2 The journey time for a return flight from Edinburgh to Copenhagen is 3.5 hours. The carbon emissions associated with the international flight are 183.6 kgCO_{2e}.
- 8.3 Travelling to Copenhagen from Edinburgh return via train would take approximately 52 hours and involves six train changes in each direction. It is felt that the extended journey time posed by train travel would not be practical, would incur additional hotel and meal costs, and would be an ineffective use of officer time. The carbon emissions associated with the international train travel are 9.7 kgCO_{2e}.
- 8.4 Similarly, travelling from Edinburgh to Newcastle by train, from Newcastle to Amsterdam by ferry, and from Amsterdam to Copenhagen by train is a 72-hour return journey. The carbon emissions associated with the international train and ferry travel are 28.4 kgCO_{2e}.

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 The proposed international officer travel forms part of the delivery of the [Edinburgh LHEES and Delivery Plan](#) which was approved by Policy and Sustainability Committee on 15 December 2023.
- 9.2 The Delivery Plan includes an action (Action 42) to “Participate in the Danish-Scottish District Heating Mentoring Programme”.
- 9.3 No risks have been identified by the proposed international travel.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 None.

11. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Scottish-Danish District Heating Mentoring Programme

Scottish-Danish District Heating Mentoring Programme 2023/24

The Offer

The Scottish Government in collaboration with the Danish Board of District Heating (DBDH) and the Royal Danish Embassy in London are pleased to announce the launch of the new 12-month District Heating Mentoring Programme. This programme will bring together senior members from Danish district heating companies with Scottish local authorities to share knowledge and learnings about district heating. The Mentoring Programme forms part of the Heat Network Support Unit (HNSU), which supports local authorities through the pre-capital stages of heat network development.

The Programme

The Mentoring Programme will form 3 core groups consisting of a small number of Scottish local authorities and Danish mentors. Through a series of engagements, local authorities will be equipped to deliver district heating projects, at pace, with participants benefiting from:

- Capacity building through knowledge and experience sharing.
- Confidence building in developing and delivering district heating.
- Tailored mentoring relationships depending on specific needs.
- Bespoke heat network delivery advice, including for stakeholder engagement, to enhance regional relationships and unlock delivery options.
- Expertise on all other aspects of district heating development, from planning and design, to metering and KPIs.

“As we progress on our route to net-zero, we expect district heating networks to play a vital role. In developing and improving our existing network, we have found the mentorship programme to be an incredible resource, with a mentor who is always available to assist with valuable knowledge, and has an understanding of the Scottish perspective on district heating. The comprehensive knowledge of Danish mentors has allowed us to overcome and avoid potential issues, and enabled us to implement a district heating network as efficiently as possible, with very little prior experience.”

- Stirling Council

Time Commitment and Expectations

Places in this programme are limited and as a result, both mentors and mentees commit to take part and contribute actively to the entire programme. Participants can expect to attend the following activities:

- Four group mentoring sessions (Three held virtually and one further day-long, in person session). Each session is expected to last 2-3 hours and focus on differently tailored themes as decided by each separate group.
- The annual grand meeting with Scottish, English, and Danish mentors and mentees for a two-day engagement. This aims to bring local authorities from across the UK together and create a space for knowledge sharing, relationship building and delivery innovation.
- Two webinars created to share news and topics of shared interest with all UK mentees.
- Participation in a two-day learning trip to Denmark in spring 2024 to learn about district heating in Denmark (mentees to cover their own costs).

The programme's timetable will be presented at the Launch event on 28 September.

Launch Event, 28 September 2023, 14:00- 15:00

An online launch event will take place for anyone interested in hearing more about the programme. To register for this event, please email HeatNetworkSupport@gov.scot.

Expression of Interest

If you want to express your interest in joining the programme before the launch event, please [complete this web form](#). We will ask you to provide your contact details, information on current activity on district heating in your local authority and what you look to gain from participating in this programme.