

ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Patrick Harvie (PH) Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel, and Tenants' Rights
Type of engagement	Visit to Køge Powerplant
Date	13 April 2023
Who	[Redacted] Danish Board of District Heating (DBDH) [Redacted]
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Redacted] and employees of the powerplant took PH on a walking tour around the site, to provide an insight into the scale and challenge involved in transitioning a) towards more renewable fuel types for municipal power generation and b) of transferring to a district heating network. • [Redacted] and [Redacted] then provided an overview of district heating across Denmark, the role of the DBDH, and the journey of Køge from a coal-fired gas plant to a bio-fuel heat plant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ District heating in Denmark makes up over 50% of total national heat demand, with 2/3rds of all households on a district heating network. ○ [Redacted] explained that the DBDH has two main types of activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1. Deciding which new district heating networks or heat sources need built in Denmark (including project proposals, environmental and social impact studies) ▪ 2. Assessing how to secure the lowest possible prices for the running of pre-existing district heating networks ○ [Redacted] explained the historical narrative that sat behind Denmark's present-day district heating network, starting with the energy crisis in the 1970s which led to the passing of the 1979 Danish Heat Supply Act (the first of its kind in the world), which set the benchmark standards for a national energy supply system based on different fuel types, that was reliable, and efficient. • Using the western suburbs and outer commune of Copenhagen as a case study (Vestegnen), [Redacted] described how the district heating supplier VEKS was originally set up to service this area, despite the local municipalities having at the time very little in the way of capital funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The first major decision taken was to structure the company as a communal partnership with the 11 involved municipalities being joint owners and jointly liable (as opposed to e.g. a limited company), as the communal model would give creditors maximum security for their loans, and would allow for the cheap procurement of foreign capital. ○ [redacted] ○ [redacted] • [Redacted] concluded his presentation with a description of the approximate carbon footprint for a VEKS end user, who on average have seen a reduction of over 83% from 1990-levels.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting ended with a discussion on some of the main lessons from VEKs’ experience that could be taken and applied in Scotland. These were mainly that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ [Redacted] ○ In setting up any large scale district heating system you have to from the get-go set understandable, clear visions and goals. ○ The inclusion and buy-in of politicians at both the national and local levels is key if you want to ensure continuous resource allocation is given over to the expansion of the network. ○ Allocating significant time, effort, and money towards information and communications efforts with the public is essential in ensuring widespread acceptance and understanding. ○ In order to secure funding for the next stage in any heat network roll-out, you have to be able to demonstrate concretely and clearly the progress you have made to date.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Redacted]
Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Redacted]
Attending Official	<p>[Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] Senior Policy Advisor [Redacted] Private Secretary</p>
Copy List	<p>Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel, and Tenants’ Rights Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Minister for Energy SpAds Admin Scott Wightman Kersti Berge Frank Strang Donna MacKinnon Sue Kearns Catherine Williams [Remaining list redacted]</p>