# Stoke-on-Trent's District Heat Network Enters New Phase with £20 Million Investment



Stoke-on-Trent's district heat network (DHN) project is set to undergo a new phase in its development. The project, funded with £20 million from a City Deal obtained in 2014, aims to provide lower-cost heating to buildings through an underground closed-loop system of pipes. Despite initial progress in installing pipes in Shelton and Stoke, the DHN is still not operational.

During a recent behind-closed-doors meeting, the Stoke-on-Trent City Council agreed to test a “revised delivery approach.” Planning permission for a geothermal plant in Etruria, which is a proposed renewable heat source for the DHN, is set to expire soon. The cabinet approved the testing of this new approach and plans to collaborate with a commercial partner, understood to be SSE. SSE and Star Energy have been involved in developing the geothermal plant.

Councillor Amjid Wazir expressed optimism about the DHN's progress, highlighting its potential to deliver sustainable heat, reduce carbon emissions, and create jobs. The council anticipates the network to be operational by the end of 2024, initially using boiler-produced heat. Future updates will include the viability of the scheme and detailed business plans once available.