

Press Release: Eastleigh Borough CHP Scheme

### **Eastleigh Borough Council and Utilicom – Building Sustainable Communities Together.**

A new, sustainable district energy scheme has been announced in the Borough of Eastleigh, Hants. The scheme is the culmination of Eastleigh Borough Council's desires to improve local and global air quality, whilst deploying sustainable technology to efficiently reduce energy costs and fuel poverty.

The initial scheme will encompass Eastleigh Borough Council's Civic Offices and the Fleming Park Leisure Centre which is operated by DC Leisure.

The company partnering Eastleigh Borough Council and providing the innovation is a specialist district energy provider – the Utilicom Group, a company synonymous with some of the most successful commercial district energy schemes in the UK, including the Southampton Geothermal Heating Company.

The primary technology being employed is Combined Heat and Power (CHP), where a highly efficient engine is used to generate electricity for the Fleming Park Leisure Centre, with the waste heat from the engine being recovered and used in a heating/hot water network linking the Leisure Centre and the Civic Offices. This type of technology, often referred to as "Imbedded Generation" overcomes the enormous losses and waste normally associated with large, inefficient power stations and the huge transmission losses that occur in the National Electricity Grid.

The CHP engine being used will be supported and backed-up by efficient conventional boiler plant and grid electricity, giving full resilience and security of supply to the Civic Centre and Leisure Centre.

The new CHP unit is to be installed at the Fleming Park Leisure Centre, with a thermal network developed that will link the Fleming Park Leisure Centre to the Civic Offices. In the future it is hoped that the thermal network will be extended to additional public, commercial and private consumers that wish to take advantage of reduced energy costs whilst improving local air quality.



The scheme will save 160 tonnes of carbon in its first year of operation; the equivalent carbon dioxide that 160,000 people exhale every day, this saving is expected to increase as new consumers are added to the scheme. It is also expected that over 1 tonne of NO<sub>x</sub> will also be saved from the scheme.

Vaughan Furniss, Commercial Manger of Utilicom explains how Utilicom's innovation is benefiting Eastleigh Borough Council and the local community: "whilst the CHP itself will be fuelled by natural gas, as the pant is highly efficient it will deliver considerable carbon dioxide savings each year. By implementing this centralised energy generation, the Council has provided a sound basis for reducing its own carbon emissions, improving air quality and future proofing its own energy requirements. It is possible that the CHP unit could be removed and replaced by other types of sustainable or renewable technologies in the future as they mature and become cost effective, including:

- Fuel cells;
- Anaerobic digestion; or
- Biomass."

The scheme has been awarded a Community Energy Fund Grant from the Energy Saving Trust, with Eastleigh Borough Council and Utilicom co-funding the remainder of the scheme.

Councillor Louise Bloom, Eastleigh's Cabinet Member for the Environment, explained that the Council was continually looking to encourage the development of more environmentally friendly

ways of producing energy. "Eastleigh is at the forefront locally in developing initiatives and schemes that promote the sustainable use of energy. For several years we have explored opportunities for combined heat and power schemes and I am very pleased to announce that we have now completed an agreement that will see our own CHP unit generating energy for the Leisure Centre and the Civic Offices. This scheme should mean an estimated reduction of 160 tonnes in carbon emissions each year and we hope that it will encourage others to follow our lead."

Simon Woodward, Chief Executive of Utilicom, said "Utilicom is delighted to be partnering with Eastleigh Borough Council in designing, building and operating a scheme that will not only benefit the Council but also will start to build a truly Sustainable Community in Eastleigh. Having partnered a number of other Local and Public Authorities in delivering similar projects, we firmly believe that these types of schemes provide Authorities with a cost effective and tangible means to address climate change both locally and globally whilst Leading by example."

The scheme should be fully operational by February 2007.

End.

*Notes to Editors:*

*Utilicom are the market leaders in the development and operation of district energy schemes, delivering heating, electricity and cooling supplies to over ten thousand householders and commercial properties across the UK.*

*Utilicom has been supplying these services for 25 years across the UK, together with operation and maintenance of Building Services Plant and Controls, Contract Energy Management and Engineering Consultancy*

*Other examples of district energy schemes developed and operated by Utilicom include the:*

*Southampton District Energy Scheme, which supplies over 40 major consumers and hundreds of domestic consumers via a network of over 11 km of heating & cooling pipes around the City Centre, making it the largest commercially developed district energy scheme in the UK. This scheme uniquely incorporates the UK's only geothermal resource, utilising a well drilled 1.7 km beneath the centre of Southampton*

*University of London CHP schemes incorporating over 4.5MW of CHP and delivering £3.5M of energy to colleges of the University of London, including the entire University College London main campus site.*

*Manchester City Council, operating, maintaining, repairing and replacing the district heating system that supplies heat to over 1,600 homes in the Alexander Park and Longsight Estates, including the maintenance and service of in-dwelling systems.*

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