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UP-RES –Urban Planners with Renewable Energy Skills

UK Perspective

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Sustainable Communities
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Part of the BRE Trust



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What is UP-RES?

- 7 Partners – across 5 Countries: **UK**, Finland, Germany, Spain and Hungary
- Deliver pilot training to urban & regional planners on District Heating and Cooling
- Dissemination to Utilities Companies, Planning Organisations and Universities
- Training material to be published in 10 EU languages

UK Context

- 2 day short course on District Heating and associated Renewable and Low Carbon Technologies
- Aimed at Local Authority Planning Officers and their supporting network (Architects, consultants)

Objectives of the course: Provide Local Authority Planners with skill and knowledge to:

- Develop / integrate sustainable energy policies into the planning process
- Translate these policies into day-to-day work
- Focus on Renewable Energy integration
- Focus upon new build but also on existing stock - holistic approach
- Highlight relationships and synergies that exist

Locations

- 15 events so far with another 5 to be completed shortly in 2012
- Locations include: Bristol, Newcastle, Brighton, London, Stoke-on-Trent, Bournemouth, Oxford, Leeds, Swansea
- Strategic locations across England and Wales
- Areas that have potential – due to large cities and towns and growth areas



Course Content

- Current EU and UK policy drivers
- Reducing energy demand of buildings & decarbonising energy supply for heating
- Introduction to DH – application, benefits, barriers and identifying sites
- Sustainable Urban Energy Planning
- Creation of evidence bases / feasibility studies for DH
- Policy writing and assessing planning applications
- Integration of renewables into DH

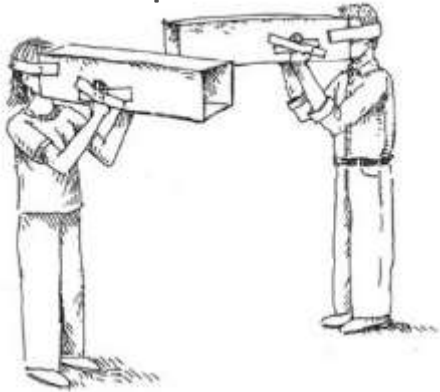
Barriers identified

- Political support
- Complex knowledge –reliance upon individuals
- Energy not considered as a major planning issue
- Early engagement and multiple stakeholders -resources for pre-application discussions with developers



Barriers Identified cont...

- Money and Business Models – understanding viability and ESCO's
- Short term targets and visions vs. long-term approach
- Bad examples from the past still thought about



What have we found? – UK Context

- Significant interest in the UK
- Real case studies – it is happening!
- Increasing knowledge of District Heating (and Cooling)
- National Heat Map provides easy, logical information
- Affordability and fuel poverty – big driver
- Using DH as a way of reducing revenue costs (taxes)
- Integration with BREEAM



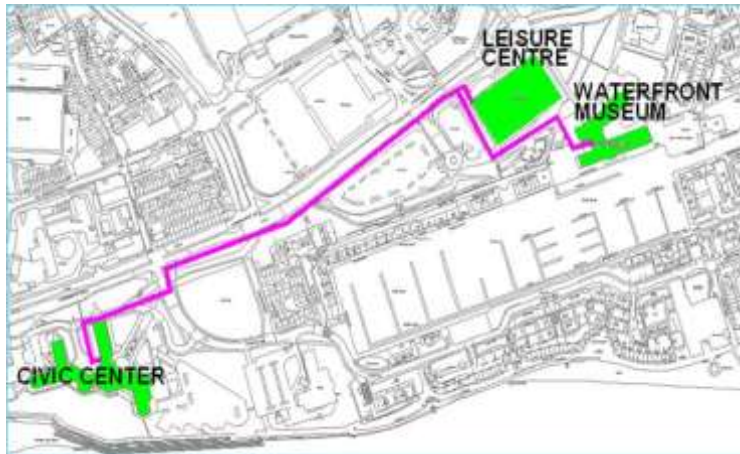
What have we found? – UK Context

- Majority at the start of the process.....
- Difficulties in getting everyone around the same table and missed opportunities
- Complexities of UK planning System
- Complexities of Local Authorities
- Pre-Feasibility the way forward?

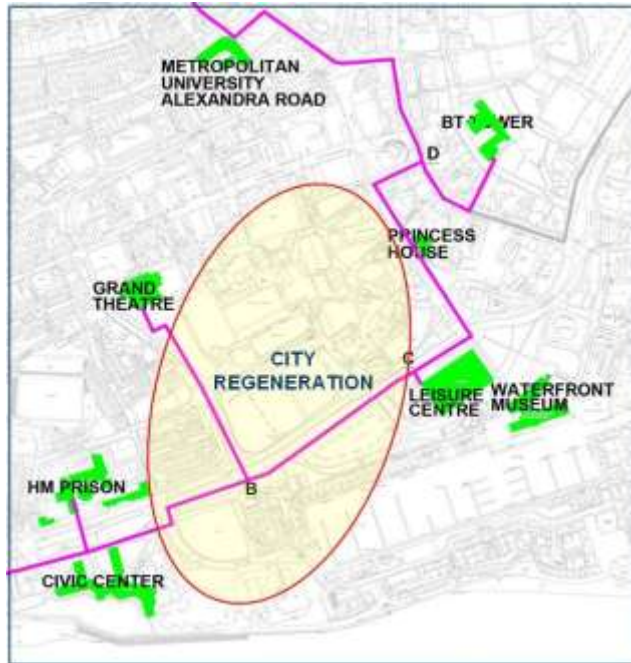


Future possibilities? - Swansea, UK

- Long term visions that incorporate spatial planning and energy at an early stage.....but start small!!



Future possibilities? - Swansea, UK



Thank you for listening

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