



Coventry City Council

Our reference: 20102558  
Date: 23 April 2013



City Services and Development  
Directorate

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Dear 

### **The Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for requesting information about **the Heatline project**, which the Council received on 26th March 2013. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You have requested the following information;

- 1. However the following news article suggests that the council HAS invested, what I can only presume is tax payers money**  
<http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/lifestyle-news/go-green/go-green-news/2011/01/11/the-heat-is-on-in-coventry-92746-27965539/> i.e. "So far, financial details have been kept secret, but officers claim the scheme, which the council is being asked to invest £1million in, will save more than it costs because the council will cut its energy bills, sell heat to other city centre customers and earn carbon credits". Can you please comment on this discrepancy?

*Coventry City Council has not contributed any money to fund the Heatline project.*

*The news article referred in your question is from January 2011 and the scheme has evolved considerably since then. As part of assessing the feasibility of the District Heating Scheme the Council considered a number of financial models to deliver the scheme including the injection of £1million worth of capital from the Council into the scheme.*

*The decision was taken later in 2011 by the Council not to financially invest in the scheme up front but to implement a different financial model based on the procurement of a private sector partner to design, build, finance and operate the scheme over a 25 year period.*

*The Council was successful in securing a £2.3 million grant from the Homes and Community Agency (HCA) towards the cost of the infrastructure of the scheme alongside the private sector partner's own financial commitment.*

**2. Once the Heatline project is completed and on tap, how much will the Council and all the buildings involved be paying a month with tax payer's money for the heating over the 25 year contract.**

*It has been established that the Council does not hold the above information as stated above due to the difficulty in forecasting usage over a 25 year period, fluctuations in the energy market and the impact of other buildings connecting to the scheme. Therefore, we are informing you as required as per section 1(1) (a) of the Act, which states:*

*"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".*

*However the Council currently budgets c£290k (2011/12) for gas across the buildings connected to Heatline. Savings to the Council will be due to the price of heat being less volatile than gas, as price escalation model for heat is not solely affected by movements in the energy market. Key evaluation criteria for the Council was to secure both financial and carbon savings, which was demonstrated as part of the procurement selection process and approved by members.*

*Coventry District Energy Company is a commercial entity entirely separate to the Council and its contracts with the Cathedral and other customers who join the scheme remain commercially confidential between those parties.*

**3. Why was it decided to lay the pipework under the table top fields instead of following London Road?**

*The Council decided to lay the pipework in order to complete the scheme within the timeframes associated with the HCA grant and reduce disruption to the major arterial route in and out of the City. Charterhouse field was presented as an option during the procurement process.*

**4. How much money was saved by the Contractor and/or Council (in their monthly payments) allowing Heatline to be laid under the table top fields?**

*There is no isolated cost saving to the Council for the pipe being laid in the table top fields. The Council is paying an overall unit price for the supply of heat to all its buildings. Coventry District Energy Company will have included their costs within the overall price and we did not receive different unit price's for the pipe going in the field or in London Road. The route of the pipework was considered as part of the Cabinet and Council reports of the 20 November and 4 December 2012 respectively. This information is published and is publicly available to view by accessing the following link:*

<http://moderngov.coventry.gov.uk/ieSearchResults2.aspx?SS=heatline&DT=3&ADV=0&CA=false&SB=true&CX=166647&PG=1>

- a. **I would like to see all the correspondence, including emails, minutes of all meetings regarding the authorisation of the use of the Council owned fields to bury the Heatline pipe.**

*The information you requested concerning minutes of all meetings regarding the authorisation of the use of the Council owned fields to bury the Heatline pipe falls under the exemption(s) in section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("The Act"), which relates to 'information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means'.*

*The exemption applies as the information is published and is publicly available to view by accessing the following link:*

<http://moderngov.coventry.gov.uk/ieSearchResults2.aspx?SS=heatline&DT=3&ADV=0&CA=false&SB=true&CX=166647&PG=1>

*With regards to correspondence including emails It has been established that the Council does not hold correspondence as stated above therefore, we are informing you as required as per section 1(1) (a) of the Act, which states:*

*"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".*

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If you wish to apply to reuse the information you have requested or have any other issues relating to this request please do not hesitate to contact me.

I hope you feel that our response meets your request. However you have a right to make representations about the outcome or handling of your request – in the first instance this must be made in writing within 40 working days of the date of this letter, to the Council's Information Governance Team at:

Council House, Room 21a  
Lower Ground Floor  
Earl Street, Coventry.  
CV1 5RR  
[infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you have done the above but are still dissatisfied, you then have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Jenni Bailey  
**Business Support Co-ordinator**