

**EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER OR DELEGATED OFFICER  
NOTICE OF DECISION**

**TITLE OF DECISION: PROGRESSING LANCASTER DISTRICT HEAT NETWORK: HEAT NETWORK ZONING PROSPECTUS GRANT FUNDING PROPOSAL**

**NAME OF DECISION TAKER:** COUNCILLOR SAM RICHES

**POSITION AND RESPONSIBILITY HELD:** PORTFOLIO HOLDER CLIMATE ACTION

**CONTACT OFFICER:** PAUL ROGERS

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**Details of Decision:**

To agree to the city council becoming the accountable body for a Heat Network Delivery Unit Round 15 Grant Funding Programme grant application - administered by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero - for up to £65,000.

**Reasons for the decision:**

An opportunity has arisen via HNDU's recently opened Round 15 funding offer to fund and undertake further work to understand and progress heat networks the city council level. It is intended to update existing models and assumptions and explore governance, procurement, and funding options suitable for each zone. This will include analysis of public-private partnership structures, anchor load engagement, and phasing. This information should enable officers to advise Cabinet on the implications of delivery partner formal procurement, options and resource matters, enabling decisions to be made on progressing delivery. This aligns with the council's sustainability objectives, offering potential wide ranging economic, social, and environmental benefits.

Applying for the HNDU Round 15 Funding presents an opportunity to build on the past years of momentum around heat network policy, feasibility work and heat network zoning and take a leading role in deciding the strategic outcomes and future of heat networks in the district. This aligns with the council's social and sustainability objectives, offering potential wide ranging economic, social, and environmental benefits. If successful, the funding will lead to updated techno-feasibility work and a prospectus providing a clear roadmap for delivering low cost, low carbon heat at scale in the district

The recommendations are:

- (1) Lancaster City Council undertakes the role as the accountable body for a full HNDU15 grant application up to £65,000.
- (2) Acceptance of grant award under the HNDU scheme for this work is delegated to the Head of Sustainable Growth.
- (3) Officers appoint the consultant as described in the report to the terms of the city council's procurement rules and protocols, and the HNDU15 grant award criteria.
- (4) Officers of the city council administer the contract and funding for work in consultation with DESNEZ, North West Net-Zero Hub and other local partners.
- (5) A report to Cabinet is made in 2026 on next steps in progressing heat networks locally and defining the city council's role, resource requirements and management of risks as informed by the consultant's work.

**IS THE DECISION URGENT**  
No

I confirm that I have taken account of the options proposed by officers, the various implications set out in the report and the comments of the Monitoring and Section 151 Officers and am authorising the decision as set out above.

**SIGNATURE OF DECISION TAKER:**



**DATE:**

22 December 2025

*THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES*

**REF NO.**

ICMD23

**DATE DECISION  
TAKEN:**

22.12.25

**DATE RECEIVED BY  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES:**

22.12.25

**DATE DECISION  
PUBLISHED:**

2.1.26

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE  
( publication day + 5  
working days):**

12.1.26