

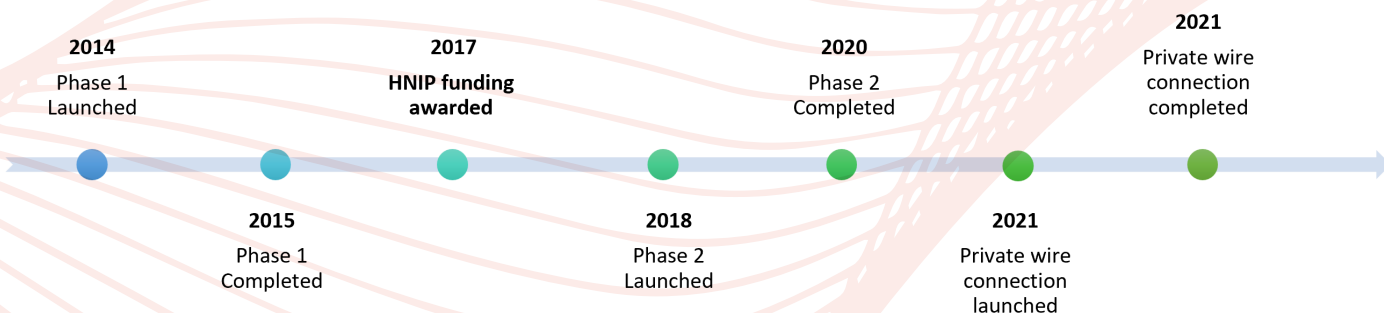
# SOMERS TOWN ENERGY



Funding beneficiary	Camden Council
Location (Town/City)	Somers Town, Camden, London
Total project capex	£6,600,000
Funding awarded	£1,050,000 construction grant
Planned/estimated heat export at completion	8.2 GWh per annum
Heat source & technology	One 900kW <sub>e</sub> gas CHP generator and three 1.3MWh boilers
Thermal storage capacity	69m <sup>3</sup>
Key anchor loads	Francis Crick Institute, Edith Neville School and a new community centre
Length of primary network	0.65 km
Anticipated number of buildings and/or connections	634 residential connections, one school, one community centre and the Francis Crick Institute. There is scope to extend this, with plans to add 30 additional homes.
Annual carbon savings (average over first 15 years)	300 tCO <sub>2</sub> e

The Somers Town Energy project was delivered in two stages. The initial stage, delivered by Vital Energi and completed in 2015, laid the groundwork for a major heat network. Phase 1 of the project included connecting four housing estates – Monica Shaw Court, Clyde Court, Oakshott Court and Goldington. A retrofit energy centre was installed in the basement of an under-used car park. A second stage was then funded in part by HNIP which upgraded this energy centre with the installation of a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) engine and thermal stores, allowing room to expand on this core capacity. This extended the heat network to a fifth tower block, a local primary school and a community centre.

## Project Milestones



## The Story So Far\*

Phase 1 of the project involved the removal of outdated boilers on individual estates and the installation of a Decentralised Energy Network (DEN) with the scope to expand and upgrade when required. To do this, pipes were sized to allow for further expansion on the heat network, and space for growth was created in the 'core' of thermal capacity. The HNIP support allowed the Somers Town Decentralised Energy Network to then upgrade this DEN to the more efficient CHP generators and to generate electricity for private sale to help subsidise operational costs of the network. This upgrade helped to reduce cost for sites connected to the network and has lowered carbon emissions in line with Camden Council's vision for a net-zero borough by 2030. The sizing of the heating plant installed also provided wider scope for expanding the heat network for further residential and community buildings.

Since the installation of the CHP and thermal stores and the expansion of the DEN in 2020, various other interventions have taken place to improve the efficiency of the network. Elysator water treatment units have been installed in two of the connected sites to improve water quality and subsequently the efficiency of heat delivered. One of the connected sites has undergone significant refurbishment of the secondary side distribution pipework whilst heat interface units have been installed in each of the dwellings. This has reduced energy consumption of the site by 30%. The Council are seeking opportunities to complete similar secondary side refurbishments on other council-owned housing sites connected to the estate.

