

## HeatNet 4DHC Protocol for ICP



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### **About HeatNet NWE**

*This document has been developed as part of the HeatNet NWE project, which is part-funded through the Interreg NWE programme and aims to increase the uptake of 4DHC networks across North-West Europe. As part of this project, the partners are developing the HeatNet Model, which will help the public sector to begin implementing 4DHC networks, and the Transition Roadmaps, which will outline the partners' experience in developing six district heating pilots across North-West Europe.*

*For further information on these reports and on the HeatNet NWE project, please visit [www.nweurope.eu/heatnet](http://www.nweurope.eu/heatnet).*

## Note on ICP

HeatNet NWE identified the need for an action to make district heating and cooling projects more investable. DHC projects are large and complex and revenues from energy sales are crucial to their viability and investment returns.

The [Investor Confidence Project](#) has been established to increase investment in energy efficiency of buildings by providing standardised tools for project development. These have the dual function of de-risking projects by improving the quality and reliability of revenue estimates, and reducing transaction costs for investment managers by following a standard format, or 'protocol', for documentation.

Where buildings are renovated for energy efficiency, there is an often overlooked opportunity to include renewable or low carbon heat in the energy mix, provided through district heating/cooling infrastructure. If not included in renovation plans, then this option is locked out for perhaps 30 years.

Thus, the provision of a specific ICP protocol for district heating and cooling was felt to be an important enabler of more holistic thinking for building renovations for energy efficiency.

At the same time that HeatNet NWE were discussing how to support the development of such a protocol, the ICP secured funding from the H2020 programme to develop a full District Heating Protocol as part of the [I3CP project](#), which also tackled industrial energy efficiency and street lighting investments. HeatNet partners (Cerema, CODEMA, Plymouth City Council) took part in the development of this protocol, led by ICP, during the winter of 2017/18.

The Protocol is limited to the extension of existing DHC networks, or the connection of existing buildings to a DHC network. This is because ICP protocols require past energy use data as the basis for energy modelling and revenue estimation.