

## **Media Information**

### **1. New Islington's Utility Network Provides Energy Savings**

The New Islington Millennium Community is pioneering a new way of making energy savings which is being integrated into the new community that is being built.

Once complete, all the homes that will comprise the New Islington Millennium Community will take their power and heating from a single community-wide utilities network.

This network carries all power into properties and also makes digital broadband services available in every home.

This allows subscribers to track their energy consumption online and benefit from automated direct billing – at New Islington Millennium Community nobody has to wait for the meter reader to arrive.

People living in New Islington should receive a fixed utility bill - one bill covering all services as opposed to separate bills for water, gas (where applicable) and electricity. A fixed subscription allows people to budget throughout the year - they know how much it is going to cost in advance.

This provides the energy suppliers with an economic incentive to produce power more efficiently – as they know they have a finite amount of income from billing.

Traditionally each apartment in a development is metered to an electricity supplier with heat and hot water provided by electric boiler systems in individual apartments. Electricity supplied conventionally, via the National Grid, travels from a power station miles and miles away through cables.

On this journey, electricity loses about 75% of its energy. This means more natural gas is needed to generate more electricity, which in turn increases Carbon Dioxide emissions.

Combined Heat and Power works by creating a mini-energy centre on site; it draws natural gas into a turbine and burns it to generate electricity. A by-product of the electricity is heat, which is used to heat the apartments. The electricity becomes incredibly efficient, as it only has to travel around the site to its end user, typically losing only 5% of its efficiency. This also negates the requirement for each apartment to have its own boiler system.

The result is low carbon dioxide emissions up to 50% less than conventional systems, which is good for the environment, lower bills as less gas is required to generate the electricity and less electricity is required as it is not lost in transit.

With the onus of energy efficiency placed on energy suppliers coupled with the continuing efficiency campaign directed at consumers, New Islington Millennium Community aims to be the standard bearer for energy efficiency.