

Heat networks for thriving homes & places

Reimagining places
for people to thrive

A guide to our services

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Reimagining places for people to thrive

About us

Your strategic partner for heat networks

Part of the Wates Group and its 128-year heritage, WPS combines deep sector expertise, strong local insight and a purpose-driven approach to act as a strategic partner for whole-property solutions.

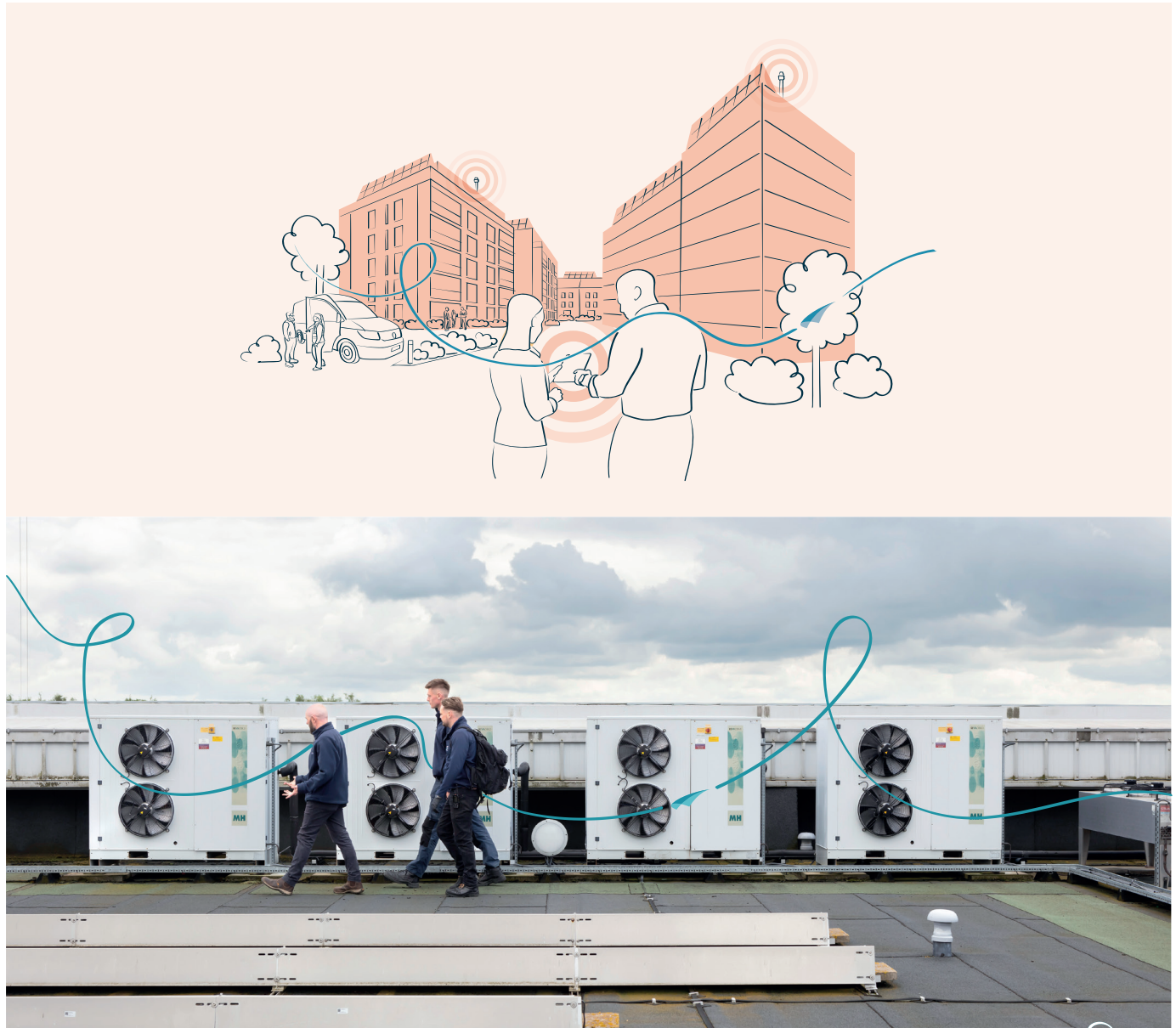
From repairs and maintenance, heating and compliance to facilities management – we provide a one-stop-shop of expertise to maintain thriving homes and workplaces.

Through our specialist energy and compliance team, Liberty – and our trusted network of partners – we support social housing providers to improve, maintain and decarbonise heat networks in line with evolving regulation.

We combine technical expertise, delivery capability and regulatory insight to help clients:

- **Navigate new Ofgem requirements and the Heat Network Technical Assurance Scheme (HNTAS) standards**
- **Improve network performance and reliability**
- **Reduce costs and deliver better resident outcomes**
- **Access and deliver funded improvements through the Heat Network Efficiency Scheme (HNES).**

With extensive experience in social housing and building services, we provide a single, accountable partner – from strategy and funding through to delivery and long-term operation.



Navigating heat networks regulation

Heat networks are now regulated

From 27 January 2026, heat networks across Great Britain are regulated by Ofgem, aligning them with the standards expected of gas and electricity providers.

This introduces statutory requirements covering:

- Consumer protection
- Fair and transparent pricing
- Service standards and reliability
- Complaints handling and Ombudsman access
- Security of supply

All existing heat networks must be registered with Ofgem by January 2027, with HNTAS introducing mandatory performance standards from the same point.

For social housing providers, this represents a step change in accountability and oversight with significant implications for:

- Governance and reporting
- Compliance risk
- Asset performance and investment
- Resident outcomes and satisfaction

This creates an immediate requirement for landlords to understand, evidence and improve the performance of their heat networks – both technically and operationally.

April 2025

Consumer advocacy live

Citizens Advice and Energy Ombudsman begin taking heat network complaints.

27 January 2027

Ofgem regulation begins

Heat networks in Great Britain become a regulated sector.

January 2027

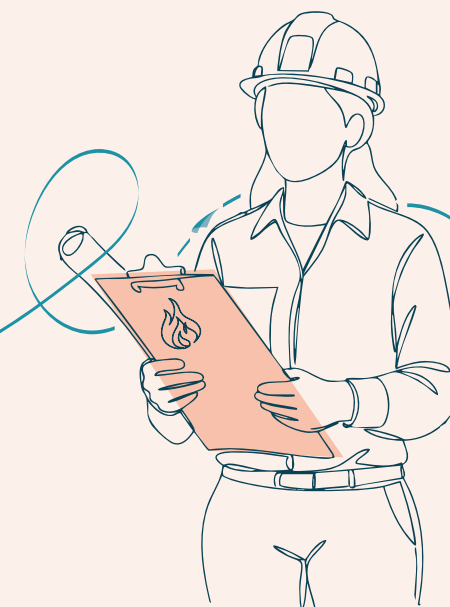
Registration deadline

All existing heat networks must be registered with Ofgem.

2027+

HNTAS mandatory

Networks must meet minimum technical performance standards set by HNTAS.



Helping you to access funding

Heat Network Efficiency Scheme (HNES)

HNES is a government-funded programme supporting the improvement of existing heat networks – helping landlords enhance performance, reduce costs and prepare for new regulatory requirements.



The grant is broken down into two stages:

Revenue grant (stage 1)

Up to **100%** funded

Typical cost between

£15k-£25k



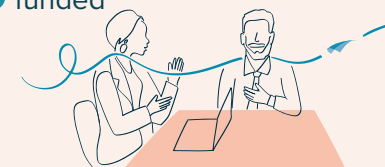
Funds an independent optimisation **study** to:

- Diagnoses why a network underperforms
- Identify inefficiencies and resident impact
- Develop a costed, prioritised plan of improvements.

Capital grant (stage 2)

Up to **49%** funded

Up to **£10**
million grant



Supports delivery of **physical improvements**, including:

- Energy centre upgrades
- Distribution network improvements
- Controls and system optimisation.

Why it matters

HNES prioritises projects serving residential customers most in need, such as social housing, low-income and fuel-poor households, and supported accommodation.

Because this support is a core focus of the scheme, projects that benefit these communities are scored more highly and stand a stronger chance of securing funding.

At a glance

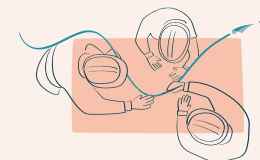


£107 million

total programme,
Department for
Energy Security
and Net Zero
(DESNZ) funded

11

funding rounds
completed

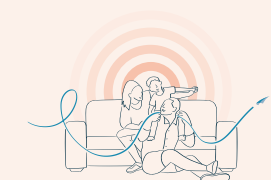


449

projects supported

80,400

residents benefitting



How we support you

Through WPS and Liberty, we manage your HNES bid end-to-end – from eligibility check and expression of interest, to the optimisation study and capital application – working with specialist partners to produce the technical evidence required by the DESNZ.

HNES funding application process

The application process is structured, but time-bound. With funding highly competitive and regulation now in place, early preparation is critical to securing funding and delivering compliant, high-performing heat networks.

01



Express interest

Timing: 2-8 weeks before submission

Email the HNES delivery partner with your project details to get access to the online portal.

02



Prepare

Timing: 1-4 weeks before submission

Read the guidance, gather baseline performance data and supporting evidence.

03



Submit

Timing: approximately 6 week window

Complete the online application (revenue or capital) and submit through the HNES portal before the deadline.

04



Assessment

Timing: 1-16 weeks after submission window closes

Technical scoring and clarifications, Investment Committee review, followed by approval of funding recommendations from DESNZ.

05



Outcome & award

Timing: 17 weeks after submission window closes

Successful applicants are notified and sign a Grant Funding Agreement (or MoU for local authorities) before works begin.

Funding rounds

Round 12

7 April – 22 May 2026

Round 13

Expected 17 August – 9 October 2026

Round 14

Expected December 2026 – February 2027



Our approach

We provide a fully integrated approach, supporting clients from initial funding strategy through to delivery.

1 Strategy and funding

- HNES eligibility, prioritisation and application support
- Preparation for current and future funding rounds

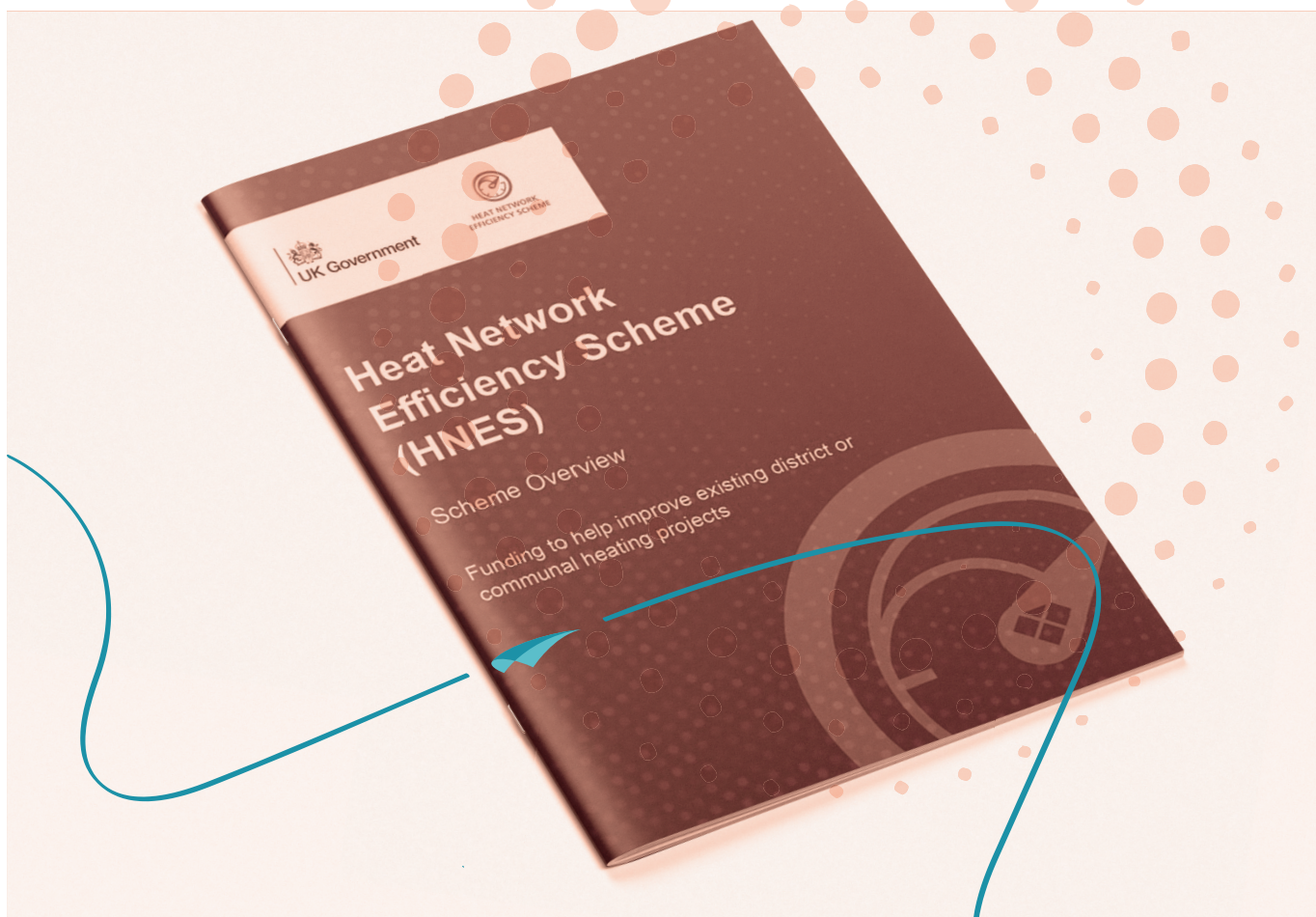
2 Compliance

- Ofgem gap analysis and registration support
- Alignment with HNTAS requirements

3 Technical delivery

- Optimisation studies (Stage 1)
- Design and delivery of improvement works (Stage 2)

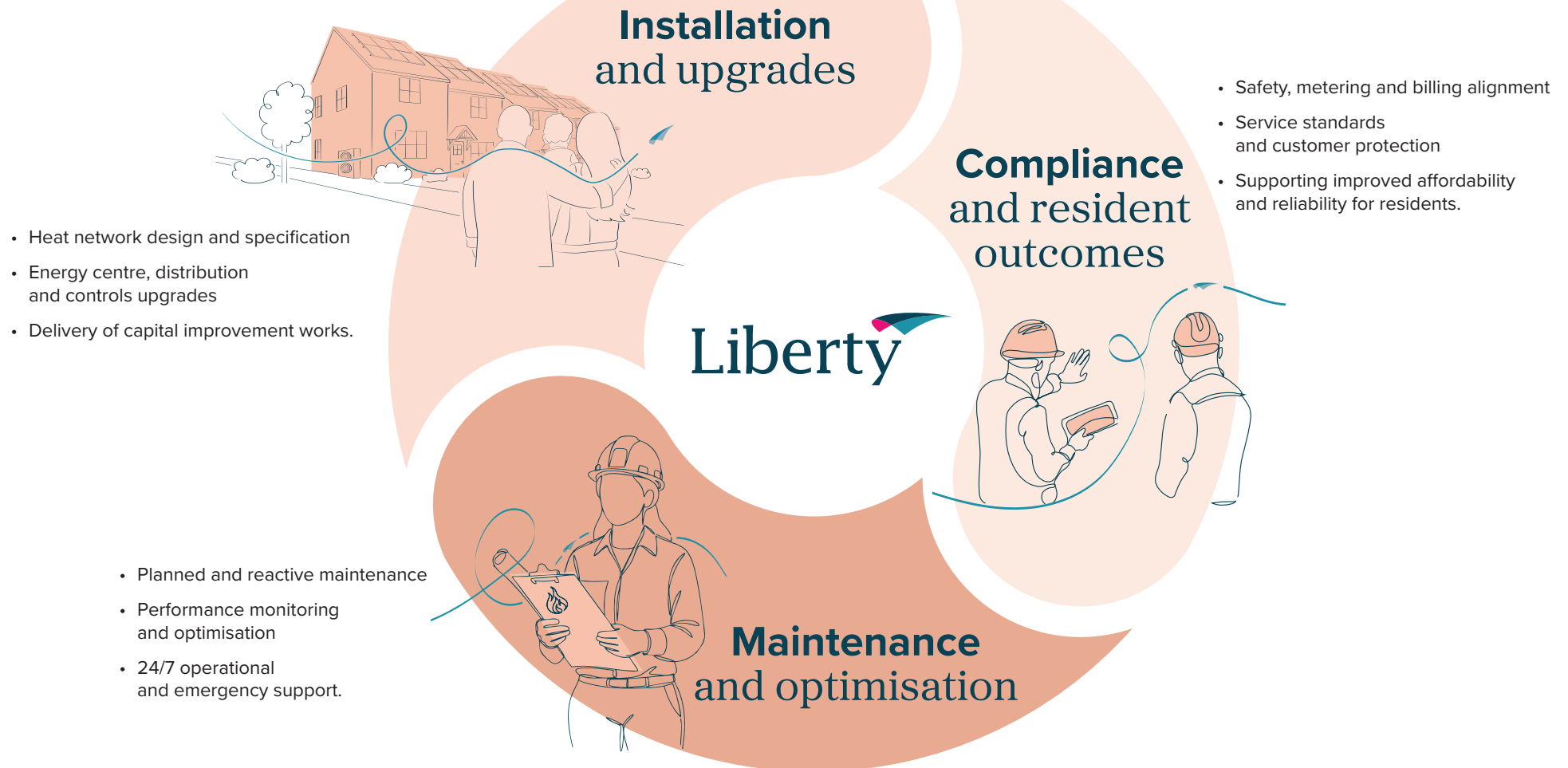
We provide a single, accountable partner to support with securing funding, achieving compliance, improving system performance and delivering better outcomes for residents.



Our services

Working in close partnership with our clients, we deliver full-service solutions for commercial and domestic heating systems, from design and installation through to maintenance, repair, and compliance. Our approach is rooted in safety, energy efficiency and supporting the transition to low-carbon technologies, ensuring systems are reliable, future-proof and fully compliant.

WPS and Liberty can provide end-to-end heat network support through the following services:



Our work in action

ForHousing

Location:	Eccles, Greater Manchester
Scale:	49 homes

Project overview

In late 2025, Liberty successfully delivered a retrofit upgrade to the existing heat network at Monica Court – a specialist housing scheme designed to support independent living alongside on-site care services – on behalf of ForHousing.

The project involved upgrading an existing gas-fired district heating system serving 49 self-contained flats, ensuring reliable and efficient heating and hot water for residents.

Working in collaboration with Worcester Bosch, Liberty designed and installed a robust heat network distribution solution, retaining the existing 300kW gas-fired plant while installing new Heat Interface Units (HIUs) within each home, supported by appropriate user friendly controls.

Although the building contained an existing plant, the scope of works required a carefully managed retrofit approach to integrate new heat distribution and metering infrastructure within a live, occupied environment. Liberty led the project from feasibility and options appraisals, through to design, installation, commissioning, and handover, providing ForHousing with clear, cost-effective and compliant options from the outset.

A key requirement was to futureproof the installation in line with forthcoming Heat Network Technical Assurance Scheme (HNTAS) regulations, including readiness for future heat metering and billing requirements. Early engagement with manufacturers and supply partners ensured the solution was both regulation-ready and operationally resilient. The completed scheme delivers dependable performance, enhanced compliance, and long-term reliability, supporting ForHousing’s commitment to high-quality housing and resident wellbeing.



Our work in action

Magenta Living

Location:	Tranmere, Wirral
Scale:	41 homes

Project overview

In collaboration with Magenta Living, Liberty upgraded the communal heating infrastructure at The Towers in Tranmere, Wirral. This project focused on the complete replacement and modernisation of a rooftop plant room serving an 11-storey residential building with 41 flats.

Liberty provided the design of the new system in line with the stringent CP1 Heat Networks Code of Practice guidelines. The installation featured a comprehensive upgrade to a high-efficiency commercial boiler plant, coupled with a thorough chemical flush of the Low-Temperature Hot Water (LTHW) system and structural improvements including re-tanking the plant room floor.

Through this initiative, Liberty ensured the building’s essential infrastructure provides reliable, cost-effective heating and hot water, supporting Magenta Living’s commitment to energy efficiency and resident comfort.



Portsmouth City Council

Location:	Portsmouth
Scale:	49 homes

Project overview

In partnership with Portsmouth City Council, Liberty is driving local decarbonisation through the specialist management of communal heat networks. A key focus of this collaboration is Nicholson Gardens, a Sheltered Housing complex owned by the Council. Built in 1984, the three-storey building comprises 49 studio flats of various sizes, alongside communal areas, offices, and facilities across an estimated 3,400sqm.

Liberty’s scope of expertise included the installation of the plantroom systems, part of a wider programme where they fitted nine plantrooms for the Council. Across the broader portfolio, Liberty manages 15 communal heat networks and assists with one major district heating system, maintaining approximately 500 Heat Interface Units (HIU). Liberty’s multi-skilled engineers provide ‘right first time’ servicing and repairs, minimising disruption for residents. This partnership continues to expand its regional footprint, recently completing the installation of a new plantroom in Fareham. Through these initiatives, Liberty is modernising essential infrastructure and supporting the ‘Switched On Portsmouth’ mission to alleviate fuel poverty and achieve net zero.



Fareham Borough Council

Location:	Fareham, Portsmouth
Scale:	40 homes

Project overview

Liberty partnered with Fareham Borough Council to enhance resident comfort and improve energy efficiency at Collingwood Court, a 40-flat sheltered housing scheme.

The project involved replacing an aging heat network system with a modern, high-performance alternative. Liberty delivered a comprehensive upgrade to the building’s plant room, installing a new heat generation plant featuring three 64kW gas-powered boilers, hot water storage, distribution systems, and advanced pumping and control technology.

The works were carefully planned to minimise disruption for residents, as all activity was confined to the plant room. Liberty also ensured seamless integration with the existing heat distribution network, maintaining reliable service throughout the project.



Get in touch

with our experts



If you'd like more information, our experts are on hand to discuss – don't hesitate to get in touch for support.



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