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Local Authority Chief Executives

COMMUNITY ENERGY SWITCHING AND BULK BUYING

I wanted to follow up my speech at the Local Government Association last month by writing to encourage you to consider how you might lead and facilitate community energy switching and bulk buying schemes.

I believe that local authorities are well placed to help local residents manage high energy bills by organising community energy switching and bulk buying schemes, thanks to your position of trust in local communities and partnerships with other key players. Some Local Authorities already run or are involved with 'heating oil clubs' which can help local residents save money through bulk purchasing. Today I am delighted to be launching the Cornwall Together collective buying scheme, which is a collaboration between Cornwall Council, NHS Cornwall, the Eden Project and St Austell Brewery aimed at helping local residents reduce their energy bills.

I am keen to see even more Local Authority-led schemes come forward and want to do what I can to facilitate this. My Department is working with the Local Government Association on their plans for developing models and advice for local authorities who are interested in this area. DECC has issued two fact sheets, one for consumers and one for potential providers. Ofgem has also issued guidance. All are available at:
<http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/funding/collectpurch/collectpurch.aspx>

Finally, I am very keen to hear your experiences of community energy switching and bulk buying together with any thoughts on steps we could take to facilitate such initiatives. To do this, please contact Ngaio Wallis at ngaio.wallis@decc.gsi.gov.uk.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward Davey', with a horizontal line underneath.

EDWARD DAVEY