

# DEFRA Community Energy Programmes

As part of the Council's Climate Change Strategy for Woking, and the Council's obligation to improve the energy efficiency of the residential stock in the Borough by 30% under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA), detailed proposals have been developed for community energy projects in respect of Council owned property. Woking Borough Council's approach to local sustainable energy systems is to supply customers on private wire combined heat and power (CHP) networks as well as implementing energy and environmental services in both the public and private sectors.

External funding has been granted towards these initiatives from DEFRA (Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) under its Community Energy Programme. This is a two year programme jointly managed by the Energy Saving Trust and the Carbon Trust. The Council was successful in its application and was offered a grant of £545,000.

The Council's Community Energy Project will provide private wire electricity to 906 homes and replace individual electric heating systems in 136 homes with radiator systems served by Community Energy. The electricity supply to the homes will be provided by Thameswey Energy Limited from the existing plant plus the additional electricity capacity which is being installed in Woking Park. It is expected that this final phase of the Woking Park project will be completed by 31 March 2004 and that the community energy project, which will be completed in phases, should be fully operational in 2004/05. Upon completion this will be similar to the services provided at Prior's Croft and other sheltered housing sites.

These projects, when completed, will help contribute towards the Council's Climate Change Strategy target to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions by 80% of the 1990 level by 2100. They will also help to contribute towards the targets of purchasing 20% and 100% of the Council's electrical energy requirements from renewable energy resources and sustainable energy resources, respectively by 2010/11.

