Domestic Biomass boiler installations

1. how do I Consider Planning?
It is essential that the property is inspected to determine the best heating choice, this could be an external boiler, internal boiler or inset wood stove, pellet stove.
The boiler selected must be suitable for the property, an assessment of the accommodation needs to determine the space needed for all system components and flues. Particular thought must be put to access, water storage and flue route.

2. What location is suitable in the garden?
The boiler should be sited away from any common paths and access routes. The location must be in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations for weather exposure.

3. What type of biomass are acceptable?
The initial installations have used a self-contained boiler plant in a weatherproof enclosure, but have no specific attachment to this unit and suitable reliable units can be installed (with other enclosures or internally). Boilers need to be of a domestic nature and sized to suit the property, boilers should be pellet type although internal stoves can be log, briquette or pellet fuelled.

4. Is a buffer to be used?
The performance of the boiler can be improved or optimised by using a buffer, but the installations to date have no thermal store and operate effectively at a reasonable cost. There is no specific technical guidance for small scale biomass and it is our experience that a buffer is not required (depending on manufacturer) and it is not a component that would be easily accommodated, do we do not expect this to be provided.

5. Would solar panels be incorporated with biomass?
The Council recognises the benefit that solar thermal systems can provide in tackling fuel poverty, but the operation of the solid fuel systems is such that the thermal benefit can affect the boiler load and performance and in this case they would not be technically practical. PV systems are not currently being considered.