

## Equality Impact Assessment

### Part 1: Background and information

<b>Title of proposal</b>	Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) & Delivery Plan
<b>Brief description of proposal (including intended outcomes &amp; purpose)</b>	<p>Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies are new strategies which are at the heart of a place based, locally led, and tailored approach to the heat transition, and underpin an area-based approach to heat and energy efficiency planning and delivery. They will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•provide a long-term Strategy and iterative Delivery Plan to decarbonise heat and improve energy efficiency, considering wider priorities and targets,</li> <li>•detail how segments of building stock must change to meet national and local targets,</li> <li>•identifies strategic heat decarbonisation zones, and</li> <li>•uses an optioneering process to prioritise actions.</li> </ul> <p>The 5-year Delivery Plan provides a strong basis for action for stakeholders, identifying early, low-regrets measures; and where ongoing analysis is required. It provides direction and informs wider energy planning with our regional city region deal partners.</p> <p>This Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy will play a crucial role in helping the Council meet its 2045 Net Zero target, and help Fife be climate friendly, ready, and just by 2045.</p>
<b>Lead Directorate / Service / Partnership</b>	Planning Service
<b>EqlA lead person</b>	Hamish Martin (Strategy Officer – Local Heat & Energy Efficiency)
<b>EqlA contributors</b>	
<b>Date of EqlA</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> August 2023

**How does the proposal meet one or more of the general duties under the Equality Act 2010?** (Consider proportionality and relevance on p.12 and see p.13 for more information on what the general duties mean). If the decision is of a strategic nature, how does the proposal address socio-economic disadvantage or inequalities of outcome?)

General duties	Please Explain
Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation	
Advancing equality of opportunity	The Strategy and Delivery Plan will not negatively impact any equality groups. The documents will aim to improve all buildings in Fife.
Fostering good relations	
Socio-economic disadvantage	<p>The Strategy and Delivery Plan will not specifically target any particular socio-demographic group. Instead the documents will aim to improve all buildings in Fife.</p> <p>The Strategy follows the same ethos as Climate Fife, with actions having a positive impact for all, ensuring social divisions are not widened, parts of society excluded, or health detrimentally impacted.</p> <p>Furthermore, it will align to The Best Start, Bright Futures Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026<sup>1</sup> commitment to only take forward decarbonisation actions <b><i>“where they will have no detrimental impact on fuel poverty rates.”</i></b></p>
Inequalities of outcome	
Looked after children and care leavers	The Strategy and Delivery Plan will not specifically target children and care leavers. Instead the documents will focus on improving all buildings in Fife.
Privacy (e.g. information security & data protection)	A DPIA has already been approved for LHEES. All data was deemed either non-personal, or low-risk.
Economy	The Strategy and Delivery plan will be high-level and only suggest potential projects to take forward, and will not specifically target any specific business/business sectors. Any site-specific impacts would be more substantially assessed at the detailed planning and implementation stage where required.

Having considered the general duties above, if there is likely to be no impact on any of the equality groups, parts 2 and 3 of the impact assessment may not need to be completed. Please provide an explanation (based on evidence) if this is the case.

<sup>1</sup> [Executive Summary - Best Start, Bright Futures: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/best-start-bright-futures-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2022-to-2026/pages/10-executive-summary.aspx)

The Local Heat and energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan are **likely to have no impact** on any of the equality groups or businesses. The strategy and any identified actions will not single out any specific groups/business sectors, rather they will focus on improving all buildings across Fife.

It **will not** introduce any new powers, initiate any legislation, or allocate any resources. The LHEES **will not** set targets, these will be defined by targets set nationally, for example through the Heat in Buildings Strategy. The LHEES **will** set out potential pathways for achieving building-related targets, steered by national Guidance and Methodology. Using technical data, the LHEES will identify areas of buildings which may – for example – be better suited for heat pump deployment, improvements in building energy efficiency and/or heat network infrastructure.

All buildings (domestic & non-domestic) across Fife will fall within the remit of the LHEES. It will not itself take forward any potential works to buildings; rather it will set out how these works might be best undertaken/coordinated to achieve targets providing a strategic framework to attract investment/target existing/future funding.

Due to the evolving funding, policy, regulatory and evidence framework the Delivery Plan will provide a ‘live’ evidence base which will consequentially require to be updated regularly. The rate and scale of delivery will equally be shaped by upcoming changes to the national policy, regulatory and funding/financing landscape.

It is important to note the identification of strategic pathways and areas for action and delivery through the LHEES Strategies and Delivery Plans will **be indicative only**. Site specific recommendations regarding priorities for implementation are beyond the purpose and scope of LHEES and will be dealt with at the more appropriate scale of site-specific proposals. Any site-specific impacts are equally more substantially assessed at this detailed planning and implementation stage where required.

The policy, regulatory, evidence and funding landscape for LHEES is still evolving and as such the first iteration is limited in detail and scope of actions.

The spatial scope of the LHEES will cover the entire Fife local authority area. All buildings will be covered by the LHEES, albeit the LHEES will not itself take forward the works to the buildings; rather it will set out how this might best be delivered with partners to achieve the national targets.

## Part 2: Evidence and Impact Assessment

Explain what the positive and / or negative impact of the policy change is on any of the protected characteristics

Protected characteristic	Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact
Disabled people			
Sexual orientation			
Women			
Men			
Transgendered people			
Race (includes gypsy travellers)			
Age (including older people aged 60+)			
Children and young people			
Religion or belief			
Pregnancy & maternity			
Marriage & civil partnership			

Please also consider the impact of the policy change in relation to:

	Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact
Looked after children and care leavers			
Privacy (e.g. information security & data protection)			
Economy			

- Please record the evidence used to support the impact assessment. This could include officer knowledge and experience, research, customer surveys, service user engagement.
- Any evidence gaps can also be highlighted below.

Evidence used	Source of evidence
1.	
2.	
3.	
Evidence gaps	Planned action to address evidence gaps
1.	
2.	
3.	

### Part 3: Recommendations and Sign Off

(Recommendations should be based on evidence available at the time and aim to mitigate negative impacts or enhance positive impacts on any or all of the protected characteristics).

Recommendation	Lead person	Timescale
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

### **Sign off**

(By signing off the EqIA, you are agreeing that the EqIA represents a thorough and proportionate analysis of the policy based on evidence listed above and there is no indication of unlawful practice and the recommendations are proportionate.

Date completed: 14/08/23	Date sent to Community Investment Team: 14/08/23 <a href="mailto:Enquiry.equalities@fife.gov.uk">Enquiry.equalities@fife.gov.uk</a>
Senior Officer: Hamish Martin name	Designation: Strategy Officer (Local Heat & Energy Efficiency)

### **FOR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT TEAM ONLY**

EqIA Ref No.	
Date checked and initials	

**Equality Impact Assessment Summary Report**

(to be attached as an Appendix to the committee report or for consideration by any other partnership forum, board or advisory group as appropriate)

<b>Which Committee report does this IA relate to (specify meeting date)?</b>
<b>What are the main impacts on equality?</b>
<b>In relation to a strategic decision, how will inequalities of outcome caused by economic disadvantage be reduced?</b>
<b>What are the main recommendations to enhance or mitigate the impacts identified?</b>
<b>If there are no equality impacts on any of the protected characteristics, please explain.</b>
<b>Further information is available from: Name / position / contact details:</b>

One of the following statements must be included in the “Impact Assessment” section of any committee report. Attach as an appendix the completed EqlA Summary form to the report – not required for option (a).

(a) An EqlA has not been completed and is not necessary for the following reasons:  
(please write in brief description)

(b) The general duties section of the impact assessment and the summary form has been completed – the summary form is attached to the report.

(c) An EqlA and summary form have been completed – the summary form is attached to the report.