

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	5.
Report No	CCC/15/23

Committee: Climate Change

Date: 5 October 2023

Report Title: Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) and Delivery Plan Update

Report By: Interim Depute Chief Executive

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on progress of the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) to ensure that Council meets its statutory requirement to prepare an authority wide LHEES by the end of December 2023.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. **Note** the contents of this report.
- ii. **Note** that the LHEES Strategy will be brought to the Climate Change Committee for consideration in December 2023.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource: There are no Resource implications arising directly from this report.

3.2 Legal: The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Order) 2022 places a legal duty on all local authorities across Scotland to prepare an LHEES by December 2023.

3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island): The development and implementation of the Strategy will help influence a Regional approach in reducing energy demand and tackling fuel poverty.

3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever: The development and implementation of LHEES will establish a framework for heat decarbonisation in both public and private buildings, reduce energy demand, tackle fuel poverty, and contribute to net zero targets.

3.5 Risk: There are no direct implications arising from this report.

3.6 Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people): There are no Health and Safety implications arising from this report.

3.7 Gaelic: There are no Gaelic implications arising from this report.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Highland Council has a statutory requirement to prepare the LHEES under the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022. ([LINK](#))
- 4.2 The LHEES Strategy and Delivery Plan sets the long-term plan for decarbonising heat in buildings, improving energy efficiency across an entire local authority area and contributing to statutory emissions reduction targets.
- 4.3 The LHEES sits below Scotland's national [Heat In Buildings Strategy](#) which sets out a national vision that by 2045 our homes and buildings will be cleaner, greener and easier to heat whilst no longer contributing to climate change. The Strategy introduces LHEES to support the coordination of activities at the local level to help meet targets concerning to energy efficiency and heat.
- 4.4 LHEES focuses on energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation, and it does not directly extend to broader local energy system planning.
- 4.5 The development and implementation of LHEES will establish a framework for heat decarbonisation in both public and private buildings, reduce energy demand, tackle fuel poverty, and contribute to net zero targets. It will do this by identifying area-based solutions and, for instance, indicative zones for developing heat networks whilst supporting local infrastructure planning and attracting investment at scale to 2045.
- 4.6 The Council's approach to developing a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy has gone through the following stages:

Stage 1 Policy and Strategy Review	considers the national and local policies relevant to LHEES, providing an opportunity to consider how the national policy landscape can be linked to local drivers. For each priority it sets out indicators and weightings that underpin analysis across the other stages. It enables the mapping of key internal and external stakeholders, as well as funding resources that support Delivery Plan actions.
Stage 2 Data and tools library	identifies the most appropriate data and information needed to support analysis in subsequent stages. The library captures data requirements for the priorities, acting as a record of data sets used and capturing associated detail on ownership, data sharing, key contacts etc.
Stage 3 Baseline strategic zoning and pathways	helps understand the current energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation performance of the building stock at a local authority wide level. This performance will be based on assessing the building stock against the indicators from Stages 1-2.
Stage 4	uses GIS techniques to generate initial delivery-level areas for each of the priorities. Heat network zoning

Generation of initial delivery-level areas	uses a linear heat density technique to generate the zones. Other priorities generate the zones using indicators and weightings from Stage 3.
Stage 5 Building-level pathway assessment	selects and analyses domestic buildings for assessment using a tool that enables the evaluation of energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation retrofit options in terms of costs and CO2 abatement. The buildings to be evaluated can be selected and taken from the analysis in Stage 3 or Stage 4.
Stage 6 Finalisation of delivery-level areas	provides the opportunity to review outputs of the previous stages, engaging with stakeholders accordingly, to finalise any delivery level areas and building-level pathways. These areas and pathways can then provide necessary evidence to support actions set out in the LHEES Delivery Plan.
Stage 7 LHEES Strategy	identifies what needs to be done to change buildings and local infrastructure over the next 20 years to fulfil the Scottish Government's objectives and local priorities relating to heat in buildings using the outputs from Stages 1-3, in addition to the Heat Network zoning outputs in Stage 4.
Stage 8 LHEES Delivery Plan	an action plan that enables a local authority and other stakeholders to work towards delivery of the changes identified in the LHEES Strategy. Actions will contribute to achieving Scotland's statutory targets on Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions and fuel poverty, as well as enabling the delivery of changes to buildings and local infrastructure needed to fulfil the Scottish Government's objectives relating to heat and energy efficiency in buildings.

4.7 LHEES Priorities/Considerations

The Scottish Government's position that LHEES should provide a long-term plan for decarbonising heat in buildings and improving their energy efficiency across an entire local authority area, framed around the following LHEES Considerations set out in Table 1 below.

The Council must ensure that Considerations are set out against local priorities and drivers for completing an LHEES which is relevant to the region. For example, it is acknowledged that not all local authorities have on- or off-gas properties.

Additionally, depending on the focus for delivery, the LHEES Considerations should not be taken into account in isolation, and it may be worthwhile to combine analysis to consider more than one Consideration at a time.

	No.	LHEES Considerations	Description
Heat decarbonisation	1	Off-gas grid buildings	Transitioning from heating oil and LPG in off-gas areas
	2	On-gas grid buildings	On-gas grid heat decarbonisation
	3	Heat networks	Decarbonisation with heat networks
Energy efficiency and other outcomes	4	Poor building energy efficiency	Poor building energy efficiency
	5	Poor building energy efficiency as a driver for fuel poverty	Poor building energy efficiency as a driver for fuel poverty
	6	Mixed-tenure, mixed-use and historic buildings	Mixed-tenure, mixed-use buildings, listed buildings, and buildings in conservation areas

4.8 Recommended actions include projects around decarbonisation and energy efficiency and cover domestic and non-domestic sectors but it will not take forward any potential works to buildings. It will set out how these works could be coordinated and undertaken to help achieve net zero commitments and provide a strategic framework to attract investment and target existing and new future funding.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 LHEES is being developed per the [methodology](#) and [guidance](#) set out by the Scottish Government. The Strategy will be produced in 5-year cycles and sets out a high-level route map and actions required to meet emission reduction and fuel poverty eradication targets whilst improving energy efficiency and decarbonising heat across the local authority area.
- 5.2 The Council in conjunction with Hub North have appointed Changeworks to provide support with the latter LHEES Stages (5-8) and fill in the gaps in Regional non-domestic data analysis (Stage 4).
- 5.3 Currently, the Council is working on the Strategy (Stage 7) and Delivery Plan (Stage 8) documents. Responsibility for the published strategy and delivery plan sits with the Council. Changeworks has been commissioned to review the reports and associated data prior to publication in December. LHEES will be a high-level Strategy and Delivery Plan with a more detailed plan sitting behind it but not published.
- 5.4 The Council has completed a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and it was screened out from a full impact assessment. The SEA Screening Report is attached in **Appendix A** and the Consulting Organisations' Responses in **Appendices B, C and D**. Determination will be published at the same time that the Strategy goes out to public

consultation. Other impact assessments have been completed and will be reviewed by a service lead.

5.5 Internal and external stakeholder engagement sessions to rank the delivery areas and public consultation will take place in the autumn.

5.6 The final LHEES Strategy will be submitted to this Committee in December.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The statutory requirement to prepare an authority wide LHEES and Delivery Plan presents a new obligation on the Council. It is being produced in response to a statutory requirement and is required to be published by 31 December 2023. LHEES will act as an important mechanism to identify the changes required to the domestic and non-domestic stock to improve energy efficiency and decarbonise heat.

Designation: Interim Depute Chief Executive

Date: 21/09/2023

Author: Ruta Burbaite, Climate Change Coordinator (LHEES)
Neil Osborne, Climate Change & Energy Team Manager

Background Papers:

[Heat Network Delivery Plan](#)

[Heat Networks \(Scotland\) Act 2021](#)

[LHEES HC report Final.pdf](#)

Appendices

Appendix A – The Highland Council SEA Screening Report

STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

Responsible Authority:

The Highland Council

Title of the plan:

The Highland Council Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan - LHEES

What prompted the plan:

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

The Highland Council has a statutory requirement to prepare the LHEES under the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022.

[The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies \(Scotland\) Order 2022](#)

Plan subject:

(e.g. transport)

Energy

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Based on Boxes 3 and 4, our view is that:

An SEA is required, as the environmental effects are likely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

An SEA is not required, as the environmental effects are unlikely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

Contact details:

Ruta Burbaite
ruta.burbaite@highland.gov.uk

Date:

11/07/2023

STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

LHEES sets the long-term plan for decarbonising heat in buildings, improving energy efficiency across an entire local authority area and contribute to statutory emissions reduction targets.

The LHEES sits below Scotland's national *Heat In Buildings Strategy* which sets out a national vision that by 2045 our homes and buildings will be cleaner, greener and easier to heat whilst no longer contributing to climate change. The *Strategy* supports economic investment and supply chain development and introduces LHEES to support the coordination of activities at the local level to help meet targets concerning to energy efficiency and heat.

There are several other critical national plans and strategies underpinning the Scottish Government's ambitions around net zero, and implications for building energy efficiency and heating, and these are listed below:

- *Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan*
 - is a plan for the whole energy system in Scotland including heating, transport and energy generation
 - aims that by 2045, Scotland will need to deliver an affordable and resilient energy supply to households, communities, and businesses
 - acknowledges the importance of scaling up renewable productions, changing the way Scotland uses energy to secure a just transition from fossil fuels, and secure investment in the net zero economy.
- *Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021*
 - sets out provisions for regulating the supply of thermal energy by a heat network, the construction and operation of a heat network, the powers of a person holding a heat network licence, conferring rights in heat network assets where person ceases operating a network, and plans relating to increased use of heat networks and for connected purposes
 - it sets targets relating to the supply of thermal energy by heat networks:
 - 2.6 TWh of output by 2027
 - 6 TWh of output by 2030.
- *Heat Networks Delivery Plan*
 - sets out how the *Heat Networks (Scotland) Act* and supporting policies contribute to increasing heat networks use in Scotland.

Key targets outlined in national plans and strategies:

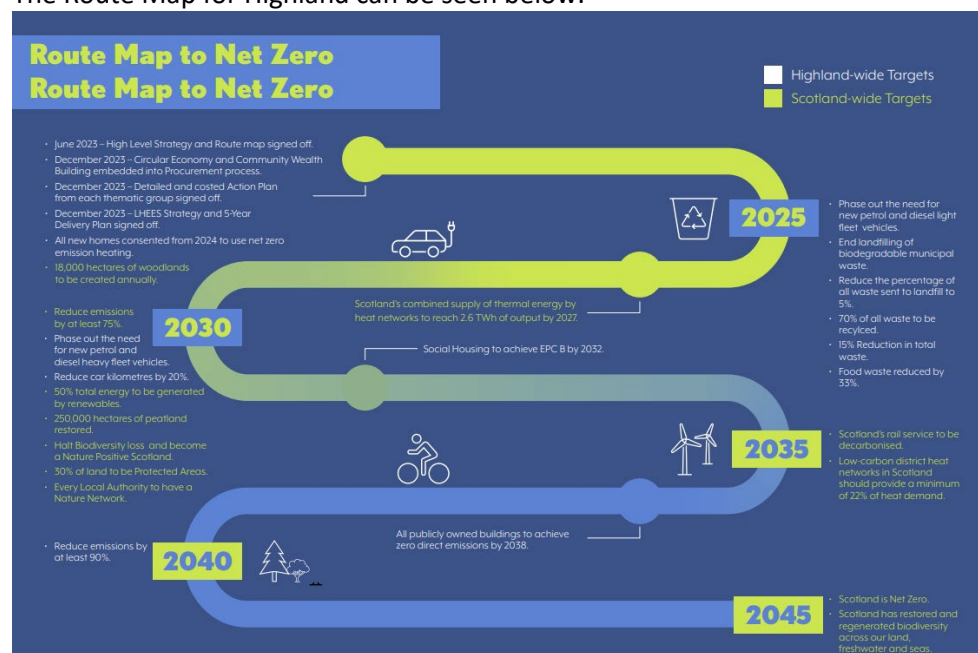
- net zero emissions by 2045 and 75% reduction by 2030
- by 2030 emissions from buildings must be 68% lower than 2020 levels, which requires zero emissions heating in:
 - the vast majority of 170,000 off-gas heated homes
 - at least 1 million on-gas homes
 - 50,000 non-domestic buildings
- by end 2032 all social housing to have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of B or above
- by 2033 all homes in Scotland to meet the equivalent of EPC C or above
- by 2038 all publicly owned buildings to meet net zero emission heating requirement

- by 2040 no more than 5% of households in fuel poverty and no more than 1% of households in extreme fuel poverty
- by 2045 all homes and buildings no longer contributing to climate change.

At the local level, the Council is developing the *Net Zero Strategy* which sets out a *Route Map to Net Zero* for Highland with relevant targets for building decarbonisation, alongside other sub-categories focusing on transport, people, economy, land use and environment.

The Strategy starts with the Council owned operations and areas of direct influence, at a higher level it informs the extent to which the Council can more broadly influence others' processes, decision-making, property management in wider Highland society.

The Route Map for Highland can be seen below:



The development and implementation of LHEES will establish a framework for heat decarbonisation in both public and private buildings, reduce energy demand, tackle fuel poverty, and contribute to net zero targets. It will do this by identifying area-based solutions and, for instance, indicative zones for developing heat networks whilst supporting local infrastructure planning and attracting investment at scale to 2045.

All in all, LHEES will support the coordination and delivery of the Scottish Government's objectives and targets in relation to heat and energy efficiency. Specifically, LHEES is vital to the Government's *Heat in Buildings Strategy*.

<p>Description of the Plan:</p>	<p>The LHEES is a long-term plan for improving energy efficiency in buildings and decarbonising their heat across an entire local authority area.</p> <p>The scope of LHEES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sets out how each segment of the building stock needs to change to meet national and local objectives, including achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions in the building sector, and the removal of poor energy efficiency as a driver of fuel poverty • helps identify potential buildings that require intervention and identify potential gaps, to support the needs of the Council • identifies strategic heat decarbonisation zones, and sets out the principal measures for reducing buildings emissions within each zone • prioritises areas for delivery, against national and local priorities • acts as a prospectus for where government funding and private investment for heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency investment should be targeted. <p>It is crucial to note that the identification of Strategic Zones and Delivery Areas through the LHEES Strategy and Delivery Plan will be indicative only, with any potential site-specific impacts, for instance cumulative effects on cultural heritage assets, being assessed at the later, detailed planning and implementation stage where required, before any proposals are finalised.</p> <p>LHEES are being produced in response to a statutory requirement and are required to be published by 31st December 2023.</p> <p>LHEES focus on energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation, and it does not directly extend to broader local energy system planning.</p> <p>It is being developed per the LHEES methodology and guidance set out by the Scottish Government. The Strategy will be produced in 5-year cycles and sets out a high-level route map and actions required to meet emission reduction and fuel poverty eradication targets whilst improving energy efficiency and decarbonising heat across an entire local authority area.</p> <p>Recommended actions will include projects around decarbonisation and energy efficiency and cover domestic and non-domestic sectors but it will not take forward any potential works to buildings. It will set out how these works could be coordinated and undertaken to help achieve net zero commitments and provide a strategic framework to attract investment and target existing and new future funding.</p> <p>The first iteration of LHEES will cover the next five years (2024-2029) and primarily be focused on delivery within the scope of the current and near future funding and regulatory and policy landscape. LHEES will be required to be reviewed and published after five years.</p>
<p>What are the key components of the plan?</p>	<p>The key components of the LHEES comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodology - the approach to preparing the LHEES, the consultation undertaken, and local authority formalities. • Policy and strategy context - a summary of the key national and local policies and regulations pertinent to the LHEES. • Local authority progress - a review of relevant work carried out in the council area to date.

Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?

- Baselineing - an assessment of the performance of the area's existing building stock.
- Generation of Strategic Zones and pathways - identification of zones for assessing the best 'pathway' for decarbonising buildings in the Highland Council area.
- LHEES findings and next steps - identifying next steps based on the LHEES findings.
- Delivery Plan - setting out potential short-term actions stemming from the LHEES providing a prospectus for where government funding and private investment for heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency investment should be targeted.

- *Heat in Buildings Strategy*

Overall, the LHEES Strategy sits within the context of the Scottish Government's *Heat in Buildings Strategy (2021)*. The draft *Heat in Buildings Strategy SEA* already identifies a range of environmental issues related to energy, energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation (e.g., challenging weather, poor energy efficiency and reduced heating options (especially in rural areas) can make fuel bills unaffordable, resulting in fuel poverty). The current trajectory is a reduction in carbon emissions from buildings, so the outcomes of LHEES, therefore, represent an acceleration of and coordination of action to support the ongoing trend rather than a departure.

The *Heat in Buildings draft Strategy SEA* undertaken by Scottish Government concludes that the *draft Strategy* is likely to positively effect climatic factors, air quality, population and human health and material assets.

The potential for effects in combination with other plans, programmes and strategies has also been considered. The draft Strategy has the potential to positively and cumulatively contribute across a wide range of Scottish Government policy areas within the context in which it sits.

The *draft Strategy SEA* concludes that due to its high-level nature, there is an inherent degree of uncertainty regarding the environmental impacts that may arise due to upscaling of strategically necessary energy efficiency measures and heat technologies now and in the future. The Environment Report (Section 4.5.1) outlines that '*Existing planning and consenting regimes and regulatory processes, allied to good working practices and monitoring, can help to ensure that potential adverse effects are avoided, and positive effects enhanced*'.

However, whilst being more 'local' than the national strategy, LHEES is still a high-level plan, and will likely have few building-level actions. The generic impacts of energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation measures have already been considered in the draft *Heat in Buildings Strategy SEA*.

[Heat in Buildings Strategy Achieving Net Zero Emissions in Scotland's Buildings: Strategic Environmental Assessment](#)

- *National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)*

As part of the preparation of the *NPF4*, the Scottish Government undertook a full SEA. The SEA is one of a range of Impact Assessments that informed the draft *NPF4*.

The draft *NPF4* included policy proposals around *Local Development Plans (LDP)* having to consider LHEES and heat networks when allocating land. The *NPF4* sets out the role of heat networks in contributing to Scotland's net zero ambitions by using and storing heat from low or zero emissions sources.

The heat and cooling Section of the assessment references heat and cooling. The summary of the SEA findings is summarised below:

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – uncertain impacts on biodiversity that would be managed at the plan or project level.
- Climatic factors – significant long-term positive effects.
- Air – positive long-term effects where heat energy is generated from low or zero emissions sources, including reducing associated atmospheric emissions from more polluting energy sources.
- Water – no significant effects on water, however, considerations may need to be given to long-term impacts on water quality from individual technologies for example, where water is used as a source of heat such as geothermal energy from mine water.
- Soil - installation of heat network infrastructure may negatively affect soils. This should be managed at the plan or project level.
- Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment - new infrastructure has the potential to impact historic assets and their setting negatively. However, the emphasis on placemaking within the overall *draft NPF4* and the requirements of the *Historical Assets and Places draft policy*, should limit where potentially negative impacts could arise.
- Landscape and Biodiversity - there is potential for localised negative impacts associated with new infrastructure. These will be site specific and managed through the plan and project consenting stages.
- Material Assets - positive effects on built material assets may arise. Using surplus or waste heat from low or zero emissions sources aligns with circular economy principles.
- Population and Human Health - positive effects on population and health are expected to arise. Heat networks have the potential to provide sustainable and affordable forms of heat, which can help address health inequalities.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-2045-scotlands-fourth-national-planning-framework-draft-integrated-impact-assessment-environmental-report/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4-integrated-impact-assessment-post-adoption-statement/>

Following a revision of the draft, *NPF4* was adopted and published by the Scottish Ministers on 13 February 2023.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

- *Heat Networks*

LHEES will identify indicative Heat Network Zones, but the designation of heat network zones falls outside the scope of LHEES, as noted in the Scottish Government's LHEES guidance. The outputs from LHEES can be used to start work on the consideration of heat networks through follow-on work for Heat Networks Zoning as required by the *Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021 (the Act)*. Any potential requirement for SEA in respect of designating Heat Network Zones,

as required under the *Act*, will be fully considered at the time of formal designation and review.

In addition to the above, heat networks infrastructure proposals will likely require planning permission and any associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements will be identified at that stage. In dealing with such an application for planning permission, the planning authority is required by the *Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997* (as amended) to have regard to the provisions of the development plan, so far as material to the application, and to any other material considerations. The development plan comprises the *National Planning Framework* and the *Local Development Plans* (plus any associated *Supplementary Guidance*, until new-style *LDPs* are adopted, the formal preparation of which could commence in May 2023 at the earliest). The *NPF* and all *LDPs* are each the subject of SEA, including the preparation of an Environmental Report.

The Scottish Government's *Heat Network Zone Guidance To accompany the 'Heat Network Zone Proforma'* to support formal heat network zone designation review includes guidance for consultation to include consultees to ensure any environmental impacts can be considered.

In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to require screening:

The Delivery Plan section and Generation of Strategic Zones and pathways (identification of zones for assessing the best 'pathway' for decarbonising buildings in the Highland Council) of the LHEES require screening as the other components of the LHEES are for information only and do not require screening through Step 3 below.

**STEP 3 – IDENTIFYING INTERACTIONS OF THE PLAN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND
CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY INTERACTIONS (Box 10)**

Plan Components	Environmental Topic Areas										Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects	Explanation of Significance
	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Inter-relationship issues		
LHEES Strategy: Generation of Strategic Zones and pathways	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<p>No potential environmental effects at this stage.</p> <p>Strategic Zones and pathways are split out by pre-defined geographical areas like intermediate zone or data zone or other (existing) strategic areas and would depend on the preferences and circumstances of the local authority. They help understand the baseline performance of building stock, and the scale of potential and initial areas to focus. These special zones identify potential solutions at a strategic level for inclusion in the LHEES Strategy. The first iteration of the LHEES will be high-level in nature, and no specific actions will be assigned against strategic zones, with generic impacts of energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation measures already considered in the <i>draft Heat in Buildings Strategy</i>.</p>	n/a
LHEES Delivery Plan including Delivery Plan Area Zoning	x	✓	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x	<p>It is expected that the LHEES Delivery Plan will have potential positive effects on climatic factors in terms of reduction in carbon emissions, for instance, through improving levels of</p>	<p>Potential for modest positive impacts in terms of reduction of carbon emissions from buildings due to the installation of energy efficiency measures</p>

									<p>insulation whilst reducing heat demand.</p> <p>It is also likely to have positive effects on population and human health as it will make homes more energy efficient, affordable to heat and creates healthy indoor air temperature and humidity levels, which can help address health inequalities.</p> <p>It is crucial to note that the Delivery Plan sets out how the local authority proposes to support implementation of its local heat and energy efficiency strategy. The Delivery Plan will not vary from the findings of existing SEAs that were undertaken for the national plans but be set in that national context. Due to the inability of the Delivery Plan to state exactly what area and building level actions could be delivered, it will not directly affect any changes.</p> <p>As noted in the screening report, a SEA screening will be taken into consideration during the formal heat network zones designation and review process as required under separate duties in the <i>Heat Network (Scotland) Act 2021</i>. This will also be carried out in line with requirements of the <i>Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005</i>.</p>	<p>and cleaner and greener low carbon technologies.</p> <p>Potential for modest positive impacts on Population and Human Health in terms of more energy efficient homes that are affordable to heat as well as improved indoor air quality.</p>
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STEP 4 – STATEMENT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING

Summary of interactions with the environment and statement of the findings of the Screening:

(Including an outline of the likely significance of any interactions, positive or negative, and explanation of conclusion of the screening exercise.)

The LHEES Delivery Plan has the potential to have modest positive climatic effects in terms of carbon emission reduction and improve human health by addressing health inequalities.

The key policies are in other plans, specifically the *Heat in Buildings Strategy* and *NPF4* which have already each been subject to an SEA, and it is not envisaged the LHEES delivery plan will have a sufficient level of granularity to differentiate it from existing SEAs from the national plans.


The strategic designation and review of zones (e.g., heat networks) will be subject to appropriate level of assessment, against the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005* and as required under separate duties in the *Heat Network (Scotland) Act 2021*.

It is the responsible authority's view that the LHEES (including Delivery Plan) for Highland falls within Section 5(3) of the 2005 Act and that an SEA is not required, based on the evidence presented in this Screening Report. The views of the SEA Consultation Authorities on this Screening Report, including on the responsible authority's view expressed above, are hereby now please requested.

When completed send to: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or to the SEA Gateway, Scottish Government, Area 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

Appendix B – SEPA Response


SEPA Ref 9778-SEA01821

 sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk
To: SEA_Gateway@gov.scot
Cc: sea_gateway@nature.scot; sea.gateway@hes.scot

  Reply  Reply All  Forward 

Thu 13/07/2023 16:29

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Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
SEA01821 - The Highland Council Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan - LHEES
Screening report

Thank you for consulting SEPA on this Screening Report by way of your email of 11 July 2023.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 we have reviewed the screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the Act. In regard to our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets and climatic factors) **we agree with the conclusions of the screening report** that the proposed PPS is **unlikely to have** significant environmental effects.

Although we are of the view that significant environmental effects are unlikely, it is for the Responsible Authority to make a formal determination taking into account the consultation responses received.

If you would like to discuss this consultation response, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or via our SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely
Susan Haslam

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Appendix C – NatureScot Response



Ruta Burbaite
The Highland Council
Climate Change & Energy Team
Performance and Governance
Inverness
By email: SEA_Gateway@gov.scot

17 July 2023
Our ref: CEA171708
Your ref: 01821

Dear Ruta

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: The Highland Council – Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan – Screening Report

Thank you for your screening report submitted to us on 11 July 2023 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway in respect of the above plan. NatureScot has considered your screening report using the criteria set in out in Schedule 2 of the Act for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

We note that this plan is high level, and therefore on that basis in terms of our interests, we agree that the above plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects.

Please note that this consultation response provides a view solely on the potential for the plan or programme to have significant environmental effects. We cannot comment on whether or not the plan or programme meets other criteria determining the need for SEA as set out in the Act.

If you wish to discuss this screening determination, please do not hesitate to contact Anne-Marie Gauld on 07717701598 or via NatureScot's SEA Gateway at SEA_Gateway@nature.scot.

01463 725219 [nature.scot](https://www.nature.scot)

NatureScot is the operating name of Scottish Natural Heritage

2

Yours sincerely

Anne-Marie Gauld
Planning Advisor / Supporting Good Development

Appendix D – Historic Environment Scotland Response

By email to: sea_gateway@gov.scot

Ruta Burbaite
Climate Change Coordinator (LHEES)
Highland Council
Climate Change & Energy Team

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716
Switchboard: 0131 668 8600
HMConsultations@hes.scot

Our case ID: 300067049
Your ref: 01821 Screening
17 July 2023

Dear Ruta Burbaite

[Environmental Assessment \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#)
[01821 Screening - Highland Council - Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan](#)

Screening Report

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 11 July 2023 about the above screening report. We have reviewed this report in our role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act, in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(3). In doing so we have used the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of the effects on the environment.

Historic Environment Scotland's view

In light of the information and reasoning set out within the screening report, we **agree** with your view that there are **unlikely to be significant environmental effects for the historic environment** as a result of this first iteration of the Strategy.

Next steps

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires you as the Responsible Authority to determine whether an environmental assessment is required. You must then notify the Consultation Authorities within 28 days of making this determination. This may be done via the SEA Gateway (sea_gateway@gov.scot).

We hope our advice is helpful to you in making this determination. Please feel welcome to contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Virginia Sharp who can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8704 or by email on Virginia.Sharp@hes.scot.

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland