

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Stage 1 Scoping and Assessing for Relevance

Section 1 Details of the Proposal

A. Title of Proposal:	Scottish Borders Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy 2024-2029
B. What is it?	A new Policy/Strategy/Practice
C. Description of the proposal: (Set out a clear understanding of the purpose of the proposal being developed or reviewed (what are the aims, objectives and intended outcomes, including the context within which it will operate))	<p>The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) is a locally led and tailored approach to set out a long-term plan for decarbonising heat in buildings and improving their energy efficiency across the Scottish Borders area. The LHEES has been led by Scottish Borders Council (SBC) with input from numerous stakeholders and via a public consultation. However, the ambition applies to all buildings in the Scottish Borders area thus the LHEES is a shared vision of how all building owners can retrofit their properties. The Scottish Borders LHEES is primarily driven by Scotland’s statutory targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and fuel poverty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net zero emissions by 2045 and 75% reduction by 2030. • In 2040, as far as reasonably possible, no household in Scotland is in fuel poverty. <p>This strategy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out how each segment of the building stock needs to change to meet national and local objectives, including achieving zero greenhouse gas emissions in buildings, and the removal of poor energy efficiency as a driver of fuel poverty. • identify strategic heat decarbonisation zones, and set out the principal measures for reducing buildings emissions within each zone; and • prioritise areas for delivery, against national and local priorities. <p>Accompanying the strategies is the Delivery Plan, which is developed in partnership with key stakeholders to set out the actions, initiatives, and programmes to support the delivery of this strategy.</p>

	<p>The LHEES vision is:</p> <p><i>Increase the energy efficiency of our homes and buildings, offer affordable warmth via zero emission heat, and deliver this as a just transition which tackles fuel poverty and builds community wealth.</i></p> <p>The priorities that will help to achieve this vision are:</p> <p><u>Cost of heating</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle poor energy efficiency as a driver of fuel poverty by focusing on areas with high fuel poverty, leveraging EES:ABS and social landlord commitments and regulations. • Drive energy efficiency to make warmth affordable for all. <p><u>Heat Decarbonisation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the electrification of heat and renewable installation across buildings in the region. • Support the development of zero emission heat networks, communal heating & renewables. • Target “low-regrets” heating opportunities in off-gas areas. <p><u>Just Transition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the local economy and improve the regional skills, employment and supply chain. • Utilise procurement, delivery models, planning, regulation, and other powers to make this transition work for the people.
<p>D. Service Area: Department:</p>	<p>Infrastructure & Environment Housing Strategy</p>
<p>E. Lead Officer: (Name and job title)</p>	<p>Donna Bogdanovic – Lead Officer (Head of Housing Strategy and Development) Neil Robertson – Principal Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy Coordinator</p>

<p>F. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)</p>	<p>The LHEES is an area-wide plan for the whole of Scottish Borders and not just the Council, it is crucial for the success of the LHEES to prioritise cross-party engagement and collective working. Engagement allows key stakeholders to raise their concerns or opportunities during the development stages, ensuring smooth and effective implementation moving forwards. The Council has previously engaged with stakeholders to develop the local energy efficiency policies such as the Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency policy, and continued this engagement throughout the LHEES process.</p> <p>The LHEES Project group has been established to oversee the development of LHEES. Members of this group include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers in the Housing Strategy, Policy and Development Team • Planning • Estates • Turner and Townsend • Changeworks <p>The Borders Home Energy Forum is overseeing the development of the LHS, this group includes senior officers at SBC and chief executives of the four local Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and a range of other external organisations</p>
<p>G. Date(s) IIA completed:</p>	<p>2nd November 2023</p>

Section 2 Will there be any impacts as a result of the relationship between this proposal and other policies?**Yes****If yes, - please state here:**

LHEES is not a standalone strategy, it links to a number of other inter-agency strategies, policies and planning structures, including:

- Scottish Borders Council, Council Plan
- Scottish Borders Community Plan
- Scottish Borders Council: Delivering the Climate Change Route Map – ECCI May 2023
- Scottish Borders Council Estate Strategy 2022-2027/32
- Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2023-2028
- Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy (AWHEES) 2019-2023
- Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2024-29
- Scottish Borders Local Development Plan
- Anti-Poverty Strategy
- Borderlands Strategic Low Carbon Masterplan
- Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Prosperity Framework
- Regional Economic Strategy
- Roadmap to Decarbonisation: Retrofit of Social Housing Stock in the South of Scotland
- Regional Prosperity Framework

Section 3 Legislative Requirements

3.1 Relevance to the Equality Duty:	
<p>Do you believe your proposal has any relevance under the Equality Act 2010? <i>(If you believe that your proposal may have some relevance – however small please indicate yes. If there is no effect, please enter “No” and go to Section 3.2.)</i></p>	
Equality Duty	Reasoning:
<p>A. Elimination of discrimination (both direct & indirect), victimisation and harassment. <i>(Will the proposal discriminate? Or help eliminate discrimination?)</i></p>	<p>Yes. The implementation of LHEES will have an impact on the whole population of the Scottish Borders as the ambition applies to all buildings in the area</p>
<p>B. Promotion of equality of opportunity? <i>(Will your proposal help or hinder the Council with this)</i></p>	<p>Yes. The development and implementation of LHEES and the action plan will identify and promote equality of opportunity</p>
<p>C. Foster good relations? <i>(Will your proposal help to foster or encourage good relations between those who have different equality characteristics?)</i></p>	<p>Yes. The implementation of LHEES is dependent on partnership working and requires engagement with a wide range of stakeholders. Through implementation there is also the potential to engage further and to build new relationships</p>

3.2 Which groups of people do you think will be or potentially could be, impacted by the implementation of this proposal? (You should consider employees, clients, customers / service users, and any other relevant groups)				
Please tick below as appropriate, outlining any potential impacts on the undernoted equality groups this proposal may have and how you know this.				
	Impact			Please explain the potential impacts and how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
Age Older or younger people or a specific age grouping		✓		<p>The Scottish Borders has an aging population with the projected growth of people over 75 is expected to increase by 30% over the period 2018-2028. This means there is a higher proportion of older people in the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>The LHEES aims to support people to understand what actions they can take to become more energy efficient and where they can get financial support. Those over a certain age can often be more susceptible to the cold and therefore be eligible for additional help. This can help people lower energy bills through improved energy efficiency and even adding solar panels on the roof to mitigate some of the increased electricity costs.</p>
Disability e.g. Effects on people with mental, physical, sensory impairment, learning disability, visible/invisible, progressive or recurring		✓		<p>The LHEES aims to support people to understand what actions they can take to become more energy efficient and where they can get financial support. Those with certain disabilities can often be eligible for benefits such as DLA or PIP, making them eligible for Cold weather payment and other schemes. This can help people lower energy bills through improved energy efficiency and even adding solar panels on the roof to mitigate some of the increased electricity costs.</p>
Gender Reassignment/ Gender Identity anybody whose gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex assigned to them at birth		✓		<p>The LHEES does not include any plans or actions that directly relate to, or will otherwise impact any of the equality groups, meaning the strategy is likely to have no impact on these groups. The LHEES 's ambition for decarbonising heat in buildings and improving their energy efficiency across the Scottish Borders will focus on improving all buildings across the area. So while there is no direct impact on these equality groups there will still be a positive impact by making homes and buildings more energy efficient and more affordable to heat, reducing fuel poverty.</p>
Marriage or Civil Partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership		✓		
Pregnancy and Maternity (refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth),		✓		

Race Groups: including colour, nationality, ethnic origins, including minorities (e.g. gypsy travellers, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers)		✓		
Religion or Belief:		✓		
Sex		✓		
Sexual Orientation		✓		

<p>3.3 Fairer Scotland Duty This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage when making <u>strategic</u> decisions.</p> <p>The duty is set at a strategic level - these are the key, high level decisions that SBC will take. This would normally include strategy documents, decisions about setting priorities, allocating resources and commissioning services.</p>				
<p>Is the proposal strategic? Yes</p>				
<p>If yes, please indicate any potential impact on the undernoted groups this proposal may have and how you know this:</p>				
	Impact			State here how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
<p>Low and/or No Wealth – enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.</p>		✓		<p>The LHEES is driven by Scottish Government targets, including ‘In 2040, as far as reasonably possible, no household in Scotland is in fuel poverty’ and the removal of poor energy efficiency as a driver of fuel poverty. By increasing the energy efficiency of all buildings, including all homes will mean people live in a warm home which if more affordable to heat.</p>
<p>Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies</p>		✓		<p>The LHEES is driven by Scottish Government targets, including ‘In 2040, as far as reasonably possible, no household in Scotland is in fuel poverty’ and the removal of poor energy efficiency as a driver of fuel poverty. By increasing the energy efficiency of all buildings, including all homes will mean people live in a warm home which if more affordable to heat.</p>

Area Deprivation – where you live (e.g. rural areas), where you work (e.g. accessibility of transport)		✓		LHEES will have an impact on the whole population of the Scottish Borders as the ambition applies to all buildings in the area, including rural areas.
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parents’ education, employment and income		✓		LHEES should have a positive impact on employment in the Scottish Borders, creating jobs and opportunities for businesses.
Looked after and accommodated children and young people	✓			The LHEES ‘s will focus on improving all buildings across the Scottish Borders area. So there will be no direct impact on these groups
Carers paid and unpaid including family members	✓			
Homelessness	✓			
Addictions and substance use	✓			
Those involved within the criminal justice system	✓			

3.4 Armed Forces Covenant Duty (<i>Education and Housing/ Homelessness proposals only</i>)	
This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to the three matters listed below in Education and Housing/ Homelessness matters. This relates to current and former armed forces personnel (regular or reserve) and their families.	
Is the Armed Forces Covenant Duty applicable? No	
If “Yes”, please complete below	
Covenant Duty	How this has been considered and any specific provision made:
The unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the armed forces;	
The principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the armed forces;	
The principle that special provision for Service people may be justified by the effects on such people of membership, or former membership, of the armed forces.	

Section 4 Full Integrated Impact Assessment Required

Select No if you have answered “No” to all of Sections 3.1 – 3.3.

Yes

If yes, please proceed to Stage 2 and complete a full Integrated Impact Assessment

If a full impact assessment is not required briefly explain why there are no effects and provide justification for the decision.

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Signed by Lead Officer:	Neil Robertson and Donna Bogdanovic
Designation:	Principal Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy Coordinator Head of Housing Strategy and Development
Date:	02/11/2023
Counter Signature Director:	
Date:	