



Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

(To be completed with reference to Guidance Notes)

Step 1

Name of Proposal (includes e. g. budget savings, committee reports, strategies, policies, procedures, service reviews, functions):

***Committee Report for Angus Council 12th September 2024:
Angus Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan – final report.***

Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment Yes/No

(B) If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment Yes/No
Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Yes/No

If you have answered Yes to either or both of the above, continue with Step 3.

If your proposal is a **strategy** please ensure you complete Step 13 which is the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment.

Step 3

(i)Lead Directorate/Service:

Planning & Sustainable Growth – Environment & Climate Change.

(ii)Are there any **relevant** statutory requirements affecting this proposal? If so, please describe.

The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022 outlines the legislative requirement for local authorities in Scotland to prepare and publish a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES). This is to be accompanied by a delivery plan which sets out how the local authority proposes to support implementation of the strategy including priority actions and key stakeholders.

As a result, LHEES will be the principal mechanism for locally-led, area based heat planning in Scotland. They will also provide an evidence base to support action to decarbonise heat, improve energy efficiency and tackle fuel poverty.

(iii)What is the aim of the proposal? Please give full details.

The aim of the Angus LHEES is to 'improve the energy efficiency of buildings and ensure a just transition to decarbonised heat sources across Angus to reduce Fuel Poverty and contribute towards achieving Net Zero emissions'.

(iv)Is it a new proposal? Yes/~~No~~ Please indicate OR

Is it a review of e.g. an existing budget saving, report, strategy, policy, service review, procedure or function? ~~Yes/No~~ Please indicate

Step 4: Which people does your proposal involve or have consequences for?

Please indicate all which apply:

Employees Yes/~~No~~ (Council Buildings included in LHEES)

Job Applicants ~~Yes/No~~

Service users ~~Yes/No~~

Members of the public Yes/~~No~~

Step 5: List the evidence/data/research that has been used in this assessment (links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance). This could include:

Internal data (e.g. customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).

There is no data or consultation relevant to the equality impact.

Internal consultation (e.g. with staff, trade unions and any other services affected).

A LHEES Working Group consisting of Council Officers from Housing (Strategy and Technical), Building Standards, Planning, Property Assets, Capital Projects, Economic Develop, GIS and Strategic Policy & Planning Services was formed to provide specialist input, as well as oversight of the LHEES as it was developed.

Elected Members were kept informed throughout the development of the LHEES via briefing sessions on the 5th of February 2024 and the 27th of March 2024. A briefing session on the draft LHEES Strategy and Delivery Plan took place on the 18th of June 2024.

External data (e.g. Census, equality reports, equality evidence finder, performance reports, research, available statistics)

The Energy Saving Trust's Home Analytics domestic dataset was used as the main source of data (Domestic Baseline Tool version 4.0 - August 2022) to analyse the domestic building stock in Angus. Part of the analysis was identifying areas (data zones) where poor energy efficiency is likely to be acting as a driver for fuel poverty. The Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) was used to assess fuel poverty within the Angus.

External consultation (e.g. partner organisations, national organisations, community groups, other councils).

Public Consultation on the draft LHEES Strategy and Delivery Plan commenced on the 20th of June 2024 for six weeks, it concluded on the 2nd of August 2024.

Area-wide stakeholder engagement has centred around Social Housing providers to date. A meeting was held on the 20th of March 2024 to introduce LHEES and discuss their priorities, challenges and opportunities surrounding energy efficiency, heat decarbonisation and fuel poverty.

Other (general information as appropriate).

None.

Step 6: Evidence Gaps.

Are there any gaps in the equality information you currently hold? Yes/No

If yes, please state what they are, and what measures you will take to obtain the evidence you need.

Step 7: Are there potential differential impacts on protected characteristic groups?

Please complete for each group, including details of the potential impact on those affected. Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each group. Please state the reason(s) why.

Age

Impact – Neutral

Age shouldn't be a factor; it is hoped the LHEES has a positive impact on people of all ages. The Aim of the LHEES is to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and ensure a just transition to decarbonised heat sources across Angus to reduce Fuel Poverty and contribute towards achieving Net Zero emissions. It is hoped that homes will be more comfortable and cheaper to run for the most vulnerable people in society, to improve wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.

Disability

Impact – Neutral

Disability shouldn't be a factor; it is hoped the LHEES has a positive impact on people of all abilities. The Aim of the LHEES is to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and ensure a just transition to decarbonised heat sources across Angus to reduce Fuel Poverty and

contribute towards achieving Net Zero emissions. It is hoped that homes will be more comfortable and cheaper to run for the most vulnerable people in society, to improve wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.

Gender reassignment

Impact – Neutral

Gender reassignment isn't a factor - the Aim of the LHEES is to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and ensure a just transition to decarbonised heat sources across Angus to reduce Fuel Poverty and contribute towards achieving Net Zero emissions.

Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact – Neutral

Marriage or civil partnership status isn't a factor - the Aim of the LHEES is to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and ensure a just transition to decarbonised heat sources across Angus to reduce Fuel Poverty and contribute towards achieving Net Zero emissions.

Pregnancy/Maternity

Impact – Neutral

Pregnancy / maternity isn't a factor - the Aim of the LHEES is to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and ensure a just transition to decarbonised heat sources across Angus to reduce Fuel Poverty and contribute towards achieving Net Zero emissions.

Race - (includes Gypsy Travellers)

Impact – Neutral

Race isn't a factor - the Aim of the LHEES is to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and ensure a just transition to decarbonised heat sources across Angus to reduce Fuel Poverty and contribute towards achieving Net Zero emissions.

Religion or Belief

Impact – Neutral

Religion or belief isn't a factor - the Aim of the LHEES is to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and ensure a just transition to decarbonised heat sources across Angus to reduce Fuel Poverty and contribute towards achieving Net Zero emissions.

Sex

Impact – Neutral

Sex isn't a factor - the Aim of the LHEES is to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and ensure a just transition to decarbonised heat sources across Angus to reduce Fuel Poverty and contribute towards achieving Net Zero emissions.

Sexual orientation

Impact – Neutral

Sexual orientation isn't a factor - the Aim of the LHEES is to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and ensure a just transition to decarbonised heat sources across Angus to reduce Fuel Poverty and contribute towards achieving Net Zero emissions.

Step 8: Consultation with any of the groups potentially affected

If you have consulted with any group potentially affected, please give details of how this was done and what the results were.

Not Applicable.

If you have not consulted with any group potentially affected, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating action of any negative impact (Step 9)?

Step 9: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce potentially negative impacts?

The LHEES shouldn't have any negative impacts - the aims of LHEES are positive: Improve the energy efficiency of buildings and ensure a just transition to decarbonised heat sources across Angus to reduce Fuel Poverty and contribute towards achieving Net Zero emissions.

Step 10: If a potentially negative impact has been identified, please state below the justification.

The LHEES shouldn't have any negative impacts - the aims of LHEES are positive: Improve the energy efficiency of buildings and ensure a just transition to decarbonised heat sources across Angus to reduce Fuel Poverty and contribute towards achieving Net Zero emissions.

Step 11: In what way does this proposal contribute to any or all of the public sector equality duty to: eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people of different protected characteristics?

The LHEES priorities are to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and ensure a just transition to decarbonised heat sources.

The proposal aims to:

- Tackle poor energy efficiency as a driver for fuel poverty to provide more comfortable and cheaper homes to run for the most vulnerable people in society, to improve wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.
- Ensure the transition to zero-emissions heating is a just transition, offering a fair and secure energy system that doesn't have a detrimental effect on fuel poverty
- Support economic growth opportunities, by attracting businesses and skilled employment linked with heat infrastructure to Angus.

Step 12: Is there any action which could be taken to advance equalities in relation to this proposal?

Not Applicable.

Step 13: FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

This step is only applicable to **strategies** which are key, high level decisions. If your proposal is **not** a strategy, please leave this Step blank, and go to Step 14.

Links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance.

Step 13(A) What evidence do you have about any socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome in relation to this strategic issue?

The Energy Saving Trust's Home Analytics domestic dataset was used as the main source of data (Domestic Baseline Tool version 4.0 - August 2022) to analyse the domestic building stock in Angus. Part of the analysis was identifying areas (data zones) where poor energy efficiency is likely to be acting as a driver for fuel poverty. The Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) was used to assess fuel poverty within the Angus.

Step 13(B) Please state if there are any gaps in socio-economic evidence for this strategy and how you will take measures to gather the evidence you need.

There are no gaps in the evidence.

Step 13(C) Are there any potential impacts this strategy may have specifically on the undernoted groupings? Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from Covid-19.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each grouping.

Low and/or No Wealth (e.g. those with 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).

Impact - Positive

The aim of the LHEES is to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, this should in turn reduce energy demand and fuel costs. It is hoped the LHEES and Delivery Plan will have a positive impact in terms of alleviating fuel poverty.

Material Deprivation (i.e. those unable to access basic goods and services e.g. repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies).

Impact - Positive

The aim of the LHEES is to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, this should in turn reduce energy demand and fuel costs. It is hoped the LHEES and Delivery Plan will have a positive impact in terms of alleviating fuel poverty.

Area Deprivation (i.e. where people live (e.g. rural areas), or where they work (e.g. accessibility of transport)).

Impact - Positive

The LHEES is an area-based approach to heat and energy efficiency planning and delivery - areas have been identified where poor energy efficiency is likely to be a driver of fuel poverty.

Socio-economic Background i.e. social class including parents' education, people's employment and income.

Impact - Unknown

Not relevant to the LHEES analysis.

Other – please indicate

None.

Step 13(D) Please state below if there are measures which could be taken to reduce socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome.

Not Applicable.

Step 14: What arrangements will be put in place to monitor and review the Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment?

The LHEES Strategy and Delivery Plan must be updated within 5 years, as per the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022. The assessment will be reviewed then.

Step 15: Where will this Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment be published?

It will be published with the committee report.

Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation. Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Caren Webster. Project Officer: Climate Change. 15/08/2024.

Reviewed by: Antony McGuinness. Manager - Development Planning, Environment and Climate Change. 15/08/2024.

Approved by: Doreen Phillips. Senior Practitioner – Equalities. 15/08/2024.

NB. There are several worked examples of separate EIA and FSD Assessments in the Guidance which may be of use to you.
