

Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy Delivery Plan

Ro-innleachd Èifeachdas Teasa
agus Lùtha Ionadail Plana
Lìbhrigidh

Strategic Approach

DRAFT

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1. Introduction

Ro-ràdh

Accompanying the Highland Council Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) is a Delivery Plan, enabling the Council and partners to work towards delivering the changes identified in the Strategy.

1.1 Purpose

The Delivery Plan is built on opportunities outlined in the Strategy which provides a useful baseline of local priorities and drivers for domestic and non-domestic properties. In development of the Delivery Plan consideration was given to wider local activity, to facilitate a clear direction and create a solid foundation for the plan including its activity, programmes and relevant funding. The list of activities is not exhaustive as more opportunities will be identified during delivery and further stakeholder engagement.

The Plan focusses on the short to medium-term delivery of activities that the Council has greatest influence over. This will help put into context what activity can currently be delivered, given available funding, resource and the changing policy landscape, as well as understanding the potential for future policies and programmes to be developed.

The Delivery Plan should be read in conjunction with Highland Council's LHEES. It covers the period 2024 to 2028. This document is expected to be updated in line with policy and target developments.

2. Strategic Approach

Dòigh-obrach Ro-innleachdail

The Council LHEES is a long-term strategic framework for decarbonising heat in buildings and improving energy efficiency, framed around two strategic priorities:

- A fabric first approach
- Decarbonising heat

Importantly, the strategy provides a strategic opportunity to develop projects and programmes in targeted priority areas through:

- Aligning areas against delivery programmes (such as Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Scheme (EES:ABS)).
- Aligning against any (future) regulation requirements to demonstrate areas that may require focus and investment (Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH2¹)).
- Prioritising areas depending on local drivers, targeted geographic areas. For instance, fuel poverty.
- Considering constraints, resources and new/ future developments that could impact any delivery decision.

Enabling place-based and people-centred planning for future energy capacity by maximising current and future opportunities to bring economic growth and wide range of benefits to stakeholders.

2.1 Links to Programme

The Highland Council published [Our Future Highland Delivery Plan 2024-2027](#) which sets out a roadmap on how to plan, manage and deliver work whilst aligning with the Budget Strategy for 2024-2027 and the revised [Highland Outcome Improvement Plan \(HCPP\)](#). The LHEES Delivery Plan is intended to complement the Our Future Highland Delivery Plan to promote a more integrated and targeted approach for fuel poverty, supply chain development, energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation. The programmes, workstreams and projects related to the LHEES are presented in **Table 1**.

¹ Note: The Scottish Government ran a consultation to invite views on proposals for a new Social Housing Net Zero Standard (SHNZS). This will replace the post-2020 Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing, or EESH2. This consultation closed on 8 March 2024 and the responses are now under independent analysis.

Table 1 – Links to Our Future Highland Delivery Plan 2024-2027

| Programme | Workstream | Project(s) |
|---|---|--|
| Net Zero, Energy Investment & Innovation | Net Zero Delivery | – Heat Networks |
| | Energy Estate | – Energy Efficient Council – Energy Efficient Homes |
| Workforce for the future | Skills Intelligence & Job Opportunities | – Industry Engagement |
| | Career pathways & packages | – Future Highland Workforce |
| Asset reconfiguration | Single Property Service | – Migration of Property Assets and Property Resources – New Trades Framework – Develop a Strategic Asset Management Plan |
| | Highland Investment Plan | – Improve Existing Asset Condition / Reduce Risk |




Other relevant national and local policies, plans, strategies and legislation can be found in the published LHEES Strategy.

2.2 Local Area Energy Planning

The scope of LHEES is broad and cuts across retrofit projects, new developments, electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and the whole energy system. For Highland, the transition to Net Zero presents a significant economic, social and industry opportunity. Growing demand in Highland puts the electricity grid under additional pressure. The increased use of electricity and connection delays requires new and upgraded connections to distribution and transmission networks. Further, the approach needs to have coordination between retrofit projects, new developments, EV charging infrastructure, as well as the whole energy system.

Figure 1 – Energy Related Activity

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>The Highland Investment Plan will deliver a £2.1 billion investment in schools, services, roads and local infrastructure over the next 20 years including new build projects in Tain Campus, Broadford Primary, Nairn Academy and Tornagrain.</p> |
|  | <p>The development of the Inverness and Cromarty Firth Green Freeport will provide a significant number of jobs in the region, impacting on accommodation availability. It is estimated an additional 24,000 houses, (double the normal delivery level), will be required to be built in the next 10 years to meet the demand.</p> |
|  | <p>The Council has an opportunity to accelerate their new build programme and ensure that current housing stock meets required standards. At the Housing and Property Committee of May 2024, several plans were proposed as part of the Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028. This will help provide affordable and sustainable housing for the Highland households with an identifiable housing need.</p> |
|  | <p>The Council has been given devolved infrastructure funding to open constrained housing sites and has been developing and piloting new forms of construction including modular and passive housing.</p> |
|  | <p>The Council is exploring the production potential of green hydrogen within the region to ensure energy security.</p> |
|  | <p>Work is currently underway to explore the potential for establishing heat networks within the Highlands. Initial engagement has highlighted the potential to attract more than £300m by 2030, with the potential for a further £500m by 2040 to deliver a city-wide network.</p> |
|  | <p>Community energy to increase by 100% in generation capacity by 2030.</p> |
|  | <p>The Council aims to expand solar assets across the Council's non-domestic estate. The intention is to target the addition of 1 megawatt (MW) of solar generation capacity to the property estate per annum for the next five years.</p> |
|  | <p>Work is underway to explore potential to develop a commercial on-site Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) model across tenanted properties within the Council's commercial estate.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Work is underway to explore opportunities for the Council to invest in utility-scale solar, battery energy, onshore and offshore wind energy.</p> |
|  | <p>The Highland Council currently has 145 chargers across the region, comprising of 7kW to 50kW units. Currently 119 of these are publicly available, the other 26 are depot-based fleet chargers.</p> |
|  | <p>The Council has completed work on a Transport Scotland funded Pathfinder Project, in collaboration with Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils. In 2022, it was identified that the total chargers in the region totalled 287 (Council and privately owned). Basing the findings on all vehicles becoming electric, it was determined that the level of home chargers needs to increase from 623 (at time of study) to 79,374 by 2045.</p> |

Addressing transition and distribution challenges requires collaboration between the Scottish, United Kingdom (UK) government and policy, local authorities, energy regulators, utility industry and local community. There is a clear and present need to undertake strategic planning to understand both current capacity and to plan for future upgrade requirements to the electricity grid.

2.3 Delivery Mechanism

The purpose of the delivery mechanism is to set out a clear path towards delivery of LHEES and support individuals, communities and businesses with their Net Zero journey. Several delivery mechanisms have been identified in this Delivery Plan, as summarised below.

Figure 2 – Delivery Mechanism

Funding

Domestic heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency delivery is based on current available funding and programmes. The Council has secured additional external funding from Scottish and Southern Energy Renewables (SSE Renewables) to support private households classed as extreme fuel poverty to support the delivery of energy efficiency improvements.

Many social housing providers in Highland are currently assessing their stock to evaluate condition. It is worth noting that in some instances, aesthetics is prioritised over energy efficiency works.

Supply Chain

Supply chain plays one of the most important roles in building a sustainable and energy efficient future for the Highlands. However, there is a gap in supply chain skills, capacity and qualifications to meet the LHEES, energy efficiency and wider local commitments.

Community Benefits and Sustainable Procurement

Community Benefits and Sustainable Procurement provide opportunities for increased prosperity which contributes to economic growth, reduces inequality, and helps minimise impacts on the environment through the Net Zero aspirations. They help to demonstrate best value, achieve broader outcomes sought and are a source of positive corporate social responsibility activities by the Council, our communities and the suppliers who deliver them.

The Council has already committed to become an exemplar in delivering ambitious, transformative action to tackle climate change and achieve Net Zero emissions by 2045. Our Net Zero and Joint Procurement strategies mandate that all procurement activities are conducted in a manner that promotes a circular economy and secures Net Zero emissions through a Just Transition.

Communication and Engagement

Continued engagement and collaboration is critical for the successful delivery of LHEES and will be undertaken around potential decarbonisation, energy efficiency opportunities and heat network developments within the Council area.

The Council will work in partnership with Changeworks to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to highlight areas of focus and detail activities for specific stakeholders to track engagement. Key stakeholders and partners have been identified and mapped out to support delivery of the LHEES as part of the Strategy development and ongoing engagement activities. An Influence/ Interest Matrix has been used to further map stakeholders within the Council's locality to support LHEES delivery. This gives a good understanding of level of engagement required for each stakeholder.

The SEP and Influence/Interest Matrix and recommended level of engagement can be found in **Appendix A**.

Internal engagement is as important as external to ensure that the Council staff and Members are fully aware of any relevant projects and can support delivery.

Planning

Around 2% of buildings are listed and 6% of domestic buildings are in conservation areas in the Highlands. The region contains 30 conservation areas which are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to protect, preserve or enhance.

There are restrictions for properties in conservation areas and location of technology is key. i.e. at the rear of the property (out of sight) you can install an air source heat pump (ASHP) under Permitted Development, but you cannot if it is on the front elevation as this would change the appearance.

Listed buildings in conservation areas and non-listed buildings in conservation areas are viewed differently in the planning system. To determine whether planning permission is required, the [Town and Country Planning \(General Permitted Development\) \(Scotland\) Order 1992](#) or Government Circular on Permitted Development must be considered.

Heat Network Delivery Model

The suitability and applicability of the preferred delivery model can be determined by the desired level of control, risk and return on investment. The level of control the Council or stakeholders have over the scheme is seen as critical in achieving the heat network project objective to make it affordable and reliable for the Highlands.

Commercial and policy factors will strongly shape the delivery approach needed to manage the project and the degree of interest of those involved. Local authorities (LA) play a significant role in the development of heat networks, as laid out below:

- Heat load – early adopter and guaranteed customer base. The Council has a significant number of non-domestic properties across the region which can provide the basis for securing initial heat loads.
- Planning – providing pre-planning advice and consenting to the development of the network, whether it is an existing network or planned development.
- Targets – supporting local and national Net Zero, fuel poverty and carbon reduction targets.
- Cross-boundary collaboration – larger scale heat networks may cross a LA boundary and a LA can support activities between different local authorities.
- Delivery model – understanding the Council's scope, objectives, role, level of control, governance, risk appetite, investment capacity, resource and stakeholders' role are key for any network development.

The Council will work in partnership with Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) and Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) to explore potential delivery models and commercial structures. Additional expert advice from consultants will be sought as required.

2.4 Timescales

The Council's proposed delivery timescales for activities listed within this Delivery Plan are defined in **Figure 3**. This includes short to medium-term activity, priorities and opportunities that are likely to be achieved within the first iteration of the Strategy and Delivery Plan. A long-term vision establishes the direction for future projects and their development based on evidence of local needs, priorities and progress achieved within the first iteration of the LHEES.





|  Immediate |  Short-term |  Medium-term |  Long-term Vision |
|---|--|--|--|
| Up to 6 months. It includes activity that can be delivered immediately. | 6-18 months. It includes activity that needs to be prioritised within the first iteration of LHEES. | 18 months - 5 years. It includes activity that needs to be assessed further for future delivery. | 5 years onwards. It includes the long-term vision of the project developments. |

Figure 3 – Delivery Timescales

3. Building Level Heat Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency Delivery Areas

Dì-charbonachadh Teas Ìre Togalaich agus Sgìrean Lìbhrigidh Èifeachdas Lùtha

Activities in relation to building level heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency delivery areas have been focused on the domestic stock decarbonisation, due to available funding, and Council-owned properties. Delivery will depend on factors such as householder sign-up, tenant opt-outs, technical feasibility and property suitability. **Table 2** lists delivery areas, not in order of priority.

For Council houses, the number of properties which may benefit from solar photovoltaic (PV) will depend on roof orientation, roof condition and final heating systems installed.

The Council LHEES does not include non-domestic projects at building level because it has minimal influence over non-domestic buildings owned by public and private building owners.

The Climate Change and Energy Team is undertaking surveys of non-domestic buildings to understand their conditions and plan any future energy efficiency and heating upgrade works. It is anticipated that 300 surveys will be undertaken over the next two years.

The Council is currently delivering the 'Develop a Strategic Asset Management Plan' (SAMP) project to bring financial and operational benefits and outcomes through a reduction in the Council's carbon footprint of its building estate.

Table 2 – Building Level Heat Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency Delivery Areas

| Delivery Area | Tenure |
|---|-----------------|
| Fort William | Multi-tenure |
| Balintore, Tain | Multi-tenure |
| Isle of Eigg | Multi-tenure |
| Isle of Raasay | Multi-tenure |
| Ross and Cromarty | Multi-tenure |
| Wick, Caithness | Local Authority |
| The Black Isle | Local Authority |
| Dingwall | Local Authority |
| Thurso, Caithness | Local Authority |
| Ullapool, Isle of Skye and Garve | Local Authority |
| Sutherland | Local Authority |

4 Heat Network Delivery Areas

Sgìrean Lìbhrigidh Lìonra Teasa

Larger scale heat networks are usually more suited to areas of high heat demand, which are often associated with denser urban settings or areas of high industrial use. Although the geography and setting in Highland is very different from some other parts of Scotland, the LHEES Strategy identifies areas of potential deployment of heat networks in Highland. It is worth noting that only Council-owned non-domestic

buildings or buildings that the Council has some control over were included in the analysis. Areas such as Wick, Thurso, and Isle of Skye have a high potential for smaller scale heat networks.

Although the Council has not designated Heat Network Zones yet, the analysis carried out for strategic zoning and pathways for the heat network consideration helped the Council identify potential zones to inform activity around further investigation within the Delivery Plan.

The potential zones listed in this Delivery Plan, not in order of priority, present theoretical and technical potential only at a strategic level, prior to any site level feasibility study alongside funding availability to progress them. Existing infrastructure, constraints and Local Development Plan (LDP) allocations have given the Council the opportunity to understand how these zones could be further developed, considering heat source opportunities, proximity to existing networks and local development sites.

Table 3 – Indicative Heat Network Zones

| Cluster location | Zone location |
|-------------------------|---|
| Invergordon | Invergordon Academy and Invergordon Sports Centre |
| Inverness 1 | Inverness High School and The Highland Council Headquarters |
| Inverness 2 | The Justice Centre and Police Scotland |
| Inverness 3 | Police Headquarters and Bannatyne Health Clubs |
| Dingwall 1 | Dingwall Academy and Highland Council Tecs Depot |
| Dingwall 2 | Highland Football Academy, Ross Memorial Hospital and The Health Centre |
| Fort William | Bedford Hospital and The Nevis Centre |

Appendix B notes ongoing investigations regarding heat network deployment opportunities in the Highlands that the Council is in some way involved in. The list is not exhaustive, and more opportunities will be added during the duration of this living Delivery Plan.

4.1 Highland Local Development Plan

The Highland Council is developing the new LDP for the whole of Highland excluding most of the Badenoch & Strathspey area for which the Cairngorms National Park is the Planning Authority (CNPA); (CNPA will likewise be developing a new LDP). The plan will set out how the land can be used by developers for the next twenty years and will be used alongside National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) as a framework for planning of development and investment.

The Council's [Development Plans Newsletter](#), published March 2024, outlines the timeframe for the preparation of the new LDP and includes a timeline indicating that the proposed plan stage will be reached by Q3 in 2025-26, with the finalised plan being adopted by Q3 2027-28. The Development Plan Newsletter is updated annually, providing updated or more detailed timelines where necessary.

A [Local Place Plan](#) (prepared by a community body) can play a part in shaping the LDP for a region by conveying a community's proposals for the development or use of land and buildings in their local area.

The Council's Planning Team is accommodating spatial planning for heat networks through preparation of the LDP and will support the growth of heat networks as part of the LHEES.

5 Delivery Plan Activities

Gnìomhan Plana Lìbhrigidh

The Delivery Plan summarises the considerations noted in the LHEES and translates them into activities to be delivered within the first iteration of the LHEES. Ongoing collaborative efforts between the Council, stakeholders and Scottish Government agencies are essential for the successful delivery of the Highland Council LHEES.

Table 4 – Delivery Plan Activities

| Action | Lead Organisation | Timescale | Outcome(s) |
|--|----------------------|------------|--|
| Skills and Jobs | | | |
| Support identification of skills and jobs required for energy efficiency, retrofit and heat decarbonisation works | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Align with Workforce for the Future Programme |
| Support workforce development | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Align with Workforce for the Future Programme |
| Develop the Highland Energy Efficiency Framework | The Highland Council | Immediate | Develop a Highland Energy Efficiency Framework (2024-2028) for energy efficiency works to offer local contractors the opportunity to bid for energy efficiency contracts, benefit from training and access external funding, where appropriate |
| Energy Infrastructure | | | |
| Engage with a Distribution Network Operator (DNO) to understand impact of individual heat pump installations on local grid | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Utilise the Local Energy Net Zero Accelerator (LENZA) tool to support strategic planning and decision-making Energy infrastructure plans are aligned with LHEES plans |
| Engage with Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN) | The Highland Council | Short-term | Utilise the Local Energy Net Zero Accelerator (LENZA) tool to support |

| | | | |
|--|----------------------|---------|---|
| to determine available grid capacity throughout the lifetime of the Strategy, whilst taking a holistic approach to the wider energy system | | | strategic planning and decision-making Energy infrastructure plans are aligned with LHEES plans |
| Explore solar potential | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Align with Net Zero Programme |
| Funding | | | |
| Maximise existing funding opportunities at national and local level on available options for different types of housing stock | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Review HRA capital budget allocations for energy efficiency works. Align existing HRA capital budget with LHEES retrofit plans. Maximise and manage external funding, including Energy Company Obligation (ECO) 4, EES:ABS (for private properties) and enabling of funds. Secure external Social Housing Net Zero Funding (SHNZF). Explore externally funded opportunities and mixed tenure project delivery. |
| Work with delivery partners to raise awareness of funding support available to households, | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Increased awareness of funding support through engagement sessions, events and partnership working. |

| | | | |
|--|----------------------|---------|--|
| community groups and businesses. | | | |
| Data Management | | | |
| Create PowerBI dashboard for all Highland domestic properties. | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Create Domestic PowerBI dashboard. Maintain and update Domestic PowerBI regularly. Share up-to-date data with Energy Saving Trust (EST) twice a year. |
| Survey non-domestic Council-owned assets. | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Align with Energy Estate Workstream. |
| Review of Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Compliance. | The Highland Council | Ongoing | To be agreed |
| Building Level | | | |
| Understand capacity for retrofit at scale and costings of repair works. | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Review stock information for domestic and non-domestic Council buildings. Establish accurate costing against building stock types. Reduce fuel poverty rates through energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation works. |
| Identify building level delivery actions that will assist in a just transition within the Council's portfolio. | | Ongoing | Align asset management plans with LHEES. Align the Community hub projects to LHEES. |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|------------|---|
| Work with Historic Environment Highland Team to develop a targeted approach to historic building interventions. | The Highland Council | Short-term | Targeted approach to historic building interventions developed. |
| Awareness and Engagement | | | |
| Ongoing engagement and collaboration with HAs and private rented sector landlords (PRSLs). | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Align the Council's and HAs retrofit plans to identify joint opportunities for heat decarbonisation. Increase awareness of retrofit plans amongst PRSLs. |
| Engage with business community around decarbonisation of heat. | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Increase awareness of retrofit plans amongst the business community. Understand large organisations' heat decarbonisation plans to inform future LHEES |
| Engage with relevant stakeholders to identify areas of collaboration across mixed tenure properties that would provide an opportunity to decarbonise heat | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Align retrofit plans with multiple stakeholders to identify joint opportunities for heat decarbonisation Produce two case studies for mixed-tenure retrofit projects |
| Raise awareness and knowledge of LHEES | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Increased awareness and knowledge of heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency across the Highland communities through |



| | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| | | | <p>events and engagement sessions</p> <p>Engage with the Council's Net Zero Programme Communications and Engagement Strategy</p> |
| Adaptation | | | |
| Investigate and identify adaptation measures at building level | The Highland Council | Ongoing | <p>Retrofit plans aligned with the Net Zero Programme</p> <p>Retrofit plans aligned with the draft Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan</p> <p>Integrate resilience and adaptation measures in planned retrofit works including but not limited to adequate ventilation, improved weathering detailing, regular and scheduled maintenance of fabric, roofline extensions</p> |
| Engage with Highland Adapts to increase awareness of climate risks, resilience and adaptation | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Increased awareness and understanding of climate risks, resilience and adaptation measures amongst developers, suppliers and local community |
| Heat Networks | | | |
| Conduct feasibility studies and beyond to explore heat network delivery model options | The Highland Council | Immediate to Short-term | Align with Net Zero Delivery Workstream, Heat Networks Project |



| | | | |
|--|----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Ensure the new Local Development Plan uses the LHEES heat network outputs | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Align with evidence gathering for preparation, consultation and publication of the new LDP |
| Engage with planners and other relevant stakeholders to discuss heat network potential and share best practices for future network expansion | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Regular updates provided to the Planning Team on heat network developments. Regular updates provided to relevant stakeholders on the heat network development work Engage with stakeholders who are interested in working with the Council to explore heat network potential |
| Request fuel data to support prioritisation of low carbon technologies and heat network analysis for delivery areas | The Highland Council | Immediate to Short-term | Align with Net Zero Delivery Workstream, Heat Networks Project |
| Support public sector organisations to discharge their duty to complete Building Assessment Reports (BAR) | The Highland Council | Ongoing | To be agreed |
| Engage with stakeholders to gather data and | The Highland Council | Immediate to Short-term | Align with Net Zero Delivery Workstream, |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| building information to investigate suitability for heat network connections and source potential | | | Heat Networks Project activity |
| Participate in the Danish-Scottish District Heating Mentoring Programme | The Highland Council | Short-term | Programme completed by the end of 2024 |
| Engage with other LAs for collaboration opportunities and best practices regarding heat network development | The Highland Council | Immediate to Short-term | Engage with individual LAs to share knowledge and lessons learned Engage with LAs that received Strategic Heat Network Support via the Strategic Heat Network Support Forum |
| LHEES Admin | | | |
| Update and revise the Strategy | The Highland Council | Ongoing | The Strategy is updated and published every 5 years |
| Update and revise the Delivery Plan annually | The Highland Council | Ongoing | The Delivery Plan is updated |
| Report to the Climate Change Committee on the LHEES Delivery Plan progress | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Progress against the Strategy and Delivery Plan reported to the Climate Change Committee so Members are given the opportunity to review and scrutinise |
| Update and revise delivery actions and progress | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Actions are kept up-to-date Monitoring report updated |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|---------|--|
| Refresh LHEES Working Group to support delivery | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Group refreshed to meet frequently to support LHEES delivery |
| Align with the Net Zero Programme delivery | The Highland Council | Ongoing | Align with the Net Zero Programme delivery |

6 Impact Assessment

Measadh Buaidh

The Council has considered several impact assessments to support the development of the LHEES and Delivery Plan:

- Climate Change Impact Assessment
- Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment
- Island Communities Impact Assessment
- Equality Impact Assessment
- Rural Impact Assessment
- Poverty Impact Assessment
- Data Protection Impact Assessment
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Since the Council published its first iteration of the LHEES and Delivery Plan in December 2023, an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been developed to replace existing individual impact assessments.

A potential site-specific impact at strategic zones and delivery areas will be assessed at the subsequent detailed planning and implementation stage, where required, before any proposals are finalised.

The strategic designation and review of Heat Network Zones will be subject to appropriate levels 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.

7 Governance, Monitoring and Evaluation

Riaghlachas, Sgrùdadh agus Luachadh

Progress against the LHEES Delivery Plan will be reported to the Climate Change Committee and the Housing and Property Committee frequently so Members are given the opportunity to review and scrutinise.

Projects delivered under Energy Efficient Homes, including EES:ABS, are reported quarterly to the Scottish Government, EST, and SSE Renewables.

For Highland Council's domestic properties, performance and budget monitoring takes place every month at the HRA Capital Board. HRA capital monitoring reports to up to five Strategic Committees each calendar year. The Council reports to Scottish Housing Regulator on compliance with Scottish Housing Quality annually.

Our Future Highland Delivery Plan 2024-2027 portfolios are sponsored by an Assistant Chief Executive and led by a Chief Officer of the Council. They are governed by a Strategic Portfolio Board which meets every 6 weeks. Portfolio reporting cycle can be found in Our Future Highland Delivery Plan 2024-2027.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (MEP) covers progress-related activities listed in this Delivery Plan. Each activity within the Delivery Plan will use the same reporting methods to provide sufficient detail going forward. Progress will be monitored through a single reporting platform which will be delivered by the Council's Performance and Risk Management System (PRMS).

8 Future of the Delivery Plan

Àm ri Teachd a' Phlana Lìbhrigidh

The LHEES Delivery Plan is a 5-year plan which will be periodically updated. The current plan will cover 2024-2028 delivery. The next Delivery Plan is scheduled to be published no later than December 2028.

Glossary

Clàr-mìneachaidh

| Abbreviations | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| ASHP | Air Source Heat Pump | PPA | Power Purchase Agreement |
| BAR | Building Assessment Report | PSG | Project Steering Group |
| CNPA | Cairngorms National Park Authority | PRSL | Private Rented Sector Landlord |
| DNO | District Heating Operator | RSL | Registered Social Landlord |
| ECO | Energy Company Obligation | SAMP | Strategic Asset Management Plan |
| EES:ABS | Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Scheme | SEA | Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| EESHS | Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing | SEP | Stakeholder Engagement Plan |
| EPC | Energy Performance Certificate | SFT | Scottish Futures Trust |
| EST | Energy Saving Trust | SHNZS | Social Housing Net Zero Standard |
| EV | Electric Vehicle | SHNZF | Social Housing Net Zero Fund |
| HRA | Housing Revenue Account | Solar PV | Solar Photovoltaic |
| LDP | Local Development Plan | SSE | Scottish and Southern Energy |
| LENZA | Local Energy Net Zero Accelerator | SSEN | Scottish and Southern Energy Networks |
| LHEES | Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy | UK | United Kingdom |
| LPP | Local Place Plan | ZWS | Zero Waste Scotland |
| MEP | Monitoring and Evaluation Plan | | |
| NHS | National Health Service | | |
| NPF | National Planning Framework | | |

Appendices

Eàrr-ràdhan

Appendix A - Delivery Mechanism

An Influence/ Interest Matrix has been used to map stakeholders within the Council’s locality. This gives a clear picture of the level of engagement required for each stakeholder throughout the delivery stage and highlights who the high-priority stakeholders are. **Figure 4** indicates there are 24 tier 1 stakeholders highlighted for further engagement as part of this process.

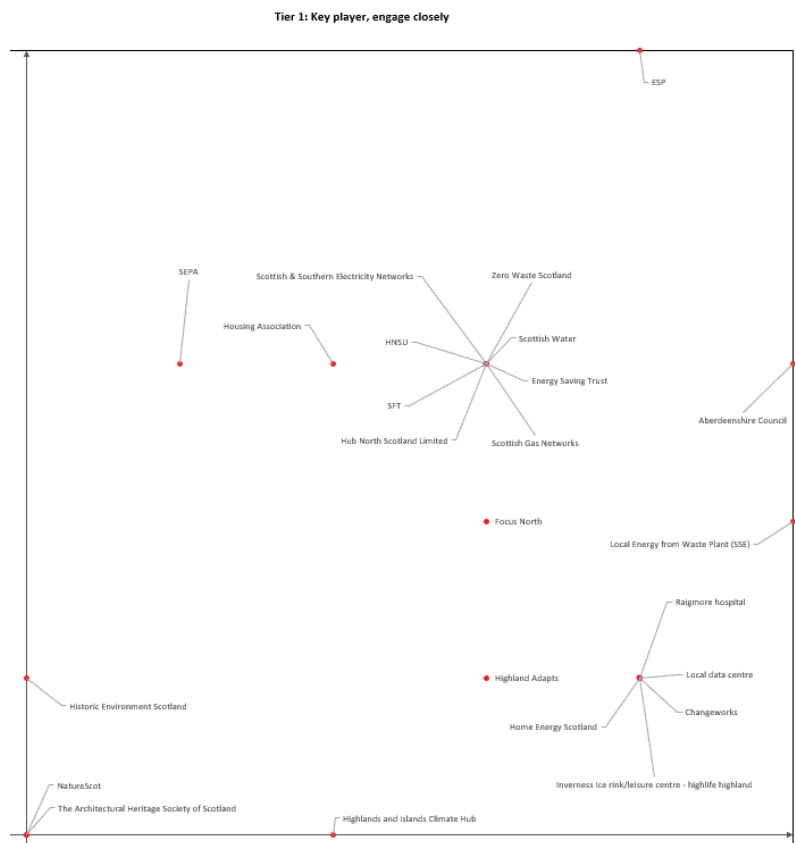


Figure 4 - The Influence/Interest Matrix for Tier 1

TIER 1 – Part of Project Steering Group (PSG). Ongoing engagement throughout the project at defined workshops e.g. identifying priorities and those related to delivery. Specific engagement plans developed as required.

Each engagement group has been categorised based on similarities in their interest relating to LHEES.

Local Councils' stakeholders include:

- Aberdeenshire Council
- Aberdeen City Council
- Moray Council
- Argyll and Bute Council
- Perth and Kinross Council
- Cairngorms National Park Authority

The Joint Procurement Strategy agreed between Highland, Aberdeenshire, and Aberdeen City Councils is intended to clearly outline the procurement and commercial priorities from 2023 to 2026 for the partners to the Commercial and Procurement Shared Service, taking account of the local ambitions and priorities for each partner. This provides a clear opportunity for collaboration and alignment of approach across the three partner local authorities.

Argyll and Bute, and Perth and Kinross have been highlighted as additional local authorities with scope for potential collaboration on strategies/ LHEES Delivery Plan objectives. These local authorities do not have the same joint procurement strategy, however due to geographical adjacencies, there is a potential opportunity for shared workforce and potentially unlocking the economies of scale associated.

Currently, most of the engagement is completed via the LHEES Governance & Oversight Group run by Hub North Scotland Limited. Perth and Kinross Council is the only Council which is not included in the Group hence additional engagement will need to take place.

Registered Social Landlords' (RSLs) stakeholders include:

- Cairn Housing Associations
- Albyn Housing Associations
- Skye & Lochalsh Housing Association
- Lochaber Housing Association
- Caledonia Housing Association

Partnership Organisations' stakeholders include, but are not limited to:

- Focus North
- Highland Adapts
- Hub North Scotland Limited
- Highland and Islands Enterprise

The partnership organisations can provide support on collaborative projects between the public sector, local government, industry and academia. Utilising their contacts and bringing relevant stakeholders together to discuss LHEES proposals will be key in the transition from strategy documents to delivering projects around the Highlands.

Utility Companies' stakeholders include, but are not limited to:

- SSEN
- Scottish Gas
- Scottish Water

To understand the opportunities and constraints across strategic zones and delivery areas, ongoing engagement and collaboration with DNO and local utility companies (including existing district heating networks) is essential. Input and data from utility companies should build a picture of opportunities, constraints, challenges and any need for further discussion and input from the utility companies.

Heat Network stakeholders include, but are not limited to:

- High Life Highland
- NHS Highland
- SSEN
- HMP Highland
- Housing Associations
- Commercial Offtakes such as Bairds Malt, Black Isle Brewery and Lifescan

Collaboration through activities listed will support heat network development in the Highland Council area.

Appendix B - Ongoing Investigations for Heat Network Potential

Table 5 - Ongoing Investigations

| Delivery Area | Location | Ward Area | Activity | Status |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Caithness | Pulteneytown, Wick | Wick and East Caithness | Connect the Council's social housing stock to existing district heating network | The initial phases of expansion are effectively complete now. Future expansion opportunities will be considered |
| Inverness | Inverness city | Inverness all | Understand potential and the scale to make the Inverness heat network project viable | Feasibility |
| Caithness | Ormlie, Thurso | Thurso and Northwest Caithness | Investigate the possibility for low carbon heat on a communal scale across Ormlie area of Thurso | Feasibility |
| Inverness | Inverness city | Inverness Central | Build a sustainable Energy Centre to supply renewable energy to Castle and Inverness Town House | Under development |
| Inverness | Inverness city | Inverness Millburn | Determine potential for energy from waste facility at Inverness Waste Transfer Station | Pre-application |