

MOTION TO EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL

23 April 2024

Progress of East Lothian Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)

Context

- The recent UK Committee for Climate Change has assessed Scotland's 2030 emissions goals as 'beyond what is credible', and the Chair of the Committee, Professor Piers Forster, argued that 'we need to see actions that will deliver on future targets.'
- On the issue of heat in buildings, the committee said: 'There are welcome bold proposals in the Heat in Buildings consultation, which if implemented could become a template for the rest of the UK. But these proposals must be delivered in practice and the planned rate of decarbonisation will not achieve those promised in 2020.'¹
- East Lothian Council unanimously approved the Draft Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) in October 2023 and the accompanying report committed to bring the final Strategy to Council in February 2024.

Motion

Council is asked to:

1.a) **agree** that local authorities have a key role to play in the strategic planning for reducing emissions from heat in buildings and to note that the Scottish Government, through its funding for LHEES posts, plans, and feasibility/strategic support studies, is empowering local authorities to take action on this key target.

1.b) **note** that the significant role for the community envisaged in the Draft LHEES is strongly supported by East Lothian Council's ambitions around Community Wealth Building and by the desired outcomes of the East Lothian Council Plan, in particular by the key value 'Enabling: recognising that the Council cannot do everything itself, [during COVID-19] we supported the vast voluntary effort that rose up in all our communities to provide much needed support for vulnerable people. The Council will develop this approach by continuing to enable and empower our communities and individuals to be more resilient.'²

¹ See [Progress in reducing emissions in Scotland - 2023 Report to Parliament - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](https://www.theccc.org.uk/reports/2023/progress-in-reducing-emissions-in-scotland-2023-report-to-parliament-climate-change/)

² See also the East Lothian Council Plan commitments to 'Develop a place-based approach to deliver services designed around our local communities, focusing on community-led regeneration' and to 'empower and enable individuals and communities to have a real say in the decisions that matter most to them. This involves going beyond dialogue and consultation by supporting citizens ... to actively participate in the definition, design and delivery of their public services.'

1.c) **further note** the significant collaborative drive and ambition of communities across East Lothian as demonstrated in the recent formation of a SCIO (by the Association of East Lothian Community Councils) to enable maximisation of the impact of community benefit from future consented energy projects.

Therefore, noting that the ambitious draft LHEES gained unanimous political support when it was presented to the October meeting of Council, and also noting that the 'Strategic Heat Network Support' from the Scottish Government's Heat Network Support Unit (HNSU) is the appropriate route for working out the significant remaining questions around feasibility and deliverability, this Council is asked to:

2. a) **Instruct** officers to submit an application for Strategic Heat Network Support to HNSU / the Scottish Government at the earliest opportunity

and

2. b) **Require** that the final draft of the LHEES should be submitted back to Full Council within two committee cycles.

Proposed by (name): Shona McIntosh

Date: 11 April 2024

Seconded by (name): Lyn Jardine

Date: 11 April 2024

Received by (name of officer): Linda Gillie, Team Manager, Democratic and Licensing

Date: 11 April 2024