
Planning Service

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Date: 12 July 2023

By email only to:

SEA_Gateway@gov.scot

Dear SEA Gateway/Consultation Authorities,

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Screening Determination:

01814 – Fife Council - Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy & Delivery Plan

This letter confirms Fife Council's screening determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 on whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) and Delivery Plan.

Through the SEA process, Fife Council submitted a Screening Report on 12 June 2023 to the Consultation Authorities:

- Historic Environment Scotland
- NatureScot
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Alongside consulting the above, Fife Council was required to consider the criteria detailed in Schedule 2 of the Act, when determining whether the LHEES and Delivery Plan are likely to have significant environmental effects.

Responses were received on 11 July 2023 from the Consultation Authorities, with responses summarised below:

Consultation Authority	Comment	Likely to have significant environmental effects
Historic Environment Scotland	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.	No
NatureScot	In accordance with Section 5 (3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, SNH has considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. We agree that the above Plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects.	No

Consultation Authority	Comment	Likely to have significant environmental effects
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	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.	No

Having consulted with the consultation authorities, and considering the criteria set out in the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Council has determined under Schedule 2 of the Act that the LHEES and Delivery Plan is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects, due to:

- The strategy aims to identify pathways to enable buildings within Fife to decarbonise heat and improve energy efficiency of the building stock. Those actions which have environmental implications are already known as they relate to existing commitments in national strategies which have previously been subject to SEA.
- The Delivery Plan, due to evolving national policy, regulatory and funding landscapes will not present detailed proposals within each of its components and has not yet been fully developed for the first iteration of LHEES. Therefore, it will not have a sufficient level of granularity to differentiate it from existing SEAs completed for the existing Scottish Government plans and strategies and will not have significant environmental effects, especially as these options will still be subject to planning & other consenting regimes at the building level.
- The ability to complete area-based analysis is constrained in the detail of not being able to commit what areas and/or building level actions could be delivered within the existing funding, regulatory and policy landscape which is currently under review and reform. Any new projects, programmes, or strategies (e.g. Heat Network Zoning) developed to deliver the outcomes of the LHEES will be subject to an appropriate level of assessment, against the requirements of the Act. Further to this, any known targets, and the pathways to achieve them which may be incorporated within the plan have already been assessed in the context of existing Scottish Government plans & Strategies.

Therefore, it is concluded that a SEA is not required.

Yours Faithfully



Hamish Martin
Strategy Officer, (Climate Change & Zero Waste), Planning Services