

# Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment 00388 (Version 1)

## SECTION ONE: ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

<b>Service &amp; Division:</b>	Place Services Growth, Planning & Climate	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b>	Claire Gibson
		<b>Team:</b>	Energy and Climate Change Team
		<b>Tel:</b>	07913417578
		<b>Email:</b>	claire.gibson@falkirk.gov.uk
<b>Proposal:</b>	<p>Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030 and Climate Emergency Action Plan.</p> <p>Falkirk Council's Climate Change Strategy sets out our approach to meeting our climate change priorities. It contains a number of outcomes relating to areas such as energy, transport, waste and procurement.</p> <p>The Climate Emergency Action Plan has a series of actions which will support the achievement of the outcomes set in the Climate Change Strategy.</p>	<b>Reference No:</b>	

What is the Proposal?	Budget & Other Financial Decision	Policy (New or Change)	HR Policy & Practice	Change to Service Delivery / Service Design
	No	Yes	No	No
Who does the Proposal affect?	Service Users	Members of the Public	Employees	Job Applicants
	No	Yes	No	No
<b>Other, please specify:</b>				

Identify the main aims and projected outcome of this proposal (please add date of each update):	
31/12/2029	Buildings and Energy - Falkirk Council will reduce emissions from operational, Council owned, buildings and support residents to be net zero carbon emission ready and reduce their energy related emissions.

<b>Identify the main aims and projected outcome of this proposal (please add date of each update):</b>	
31/12/2029	<p>Transport - Falkirk Council will endeavour to decarbonise Council owned fleet through transitioning to electric/hydrogen powered vehicles.</p> <p>We will encourage sustainable transport and active travel through providing a local transport system that supports individuals make more sustainable travel choices.</p>
31/12/2029	Waste management - Falkirk Council will encourage residents and businesses to make the correct choices when disposing and recycling of their waste and support a reduction in waste sent to landfill, in line with national policy.
31/12/2029	Procurement - We will seek to reduce the climate impact of products produced and purchased by Falkirk Council.
31/12/2029	Business, and non-commercial land use - We will work to support businesses, industry, and the agricultural sector to reduce emissions and seek ways to explore carbon sequestration to further reduce impact from emissions in the Falkirk area.

**SECTION TWO: FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

For budget changes ONLY please include information below:		Benchmark, e.g. Scottish Average	
Current spend on this service (£'0000s)	Total:		
Reduction to this service budget (£'0000s)	Per Annum:		
Increase to this service budget (£'000s)	Per Annum:		
If this is a change to a charge or concession please complete.	Current Annual Income Total:		
	Expected Annual Income Total:		
If this is a budget decision, when will the saving be achieved?	Start Date:		
	End Date (if any):		

## SECTION THREE: EVIDENCE

Please include any evidence or relevant information that has influenced the decisions contained in this EPIA. (This could include demographic profiles; audits; research; health needs assessments; national guidance or legislative requirements and how this relates to the protected characteristic groups.)

### A - Quantitative Evidence

This is evidence which is numerical and should include the number people who use the service and the number of people from the protected characteristic groups who might be affected by changes to the service.

The Climate Change Strategy covers the whole Falkirk area and there will be people from the protected characteristics group. The Action Plan sets out a list of actions to achieve the outcomes of the strategy. Many of these actions such as the flood protection scheme etc. will require their own EPIA on how it impacts on people from the protected characteristics group. The action plan is a list of actions that we are aware of going on throughout Falkirk Council.

An online survey was carried out between February and April 2023 and received 81 responses. Several demographic questions were asked to ensure that the protected characteristic groups were represented. There were some who did not answer these questions, more notably sexual orientation, 'legal status or national of another country.

The survey asked how people felt the outcomes we are aiming to achieve would impact areas such as cost of living, physical health, mental health and the local natural environment. The options were they will help a lot, will help a bit, neither help or make things worse, make things worse and don't know. We also asked how concerned people were about climate change in the Falkirk Council area. It is clear from the results that people, across all protected characteristic groups, are concerned with 31% responding that they were very worried and 38% responding that they were a bit worried.

A summary of the results relevant to this EPIA are summarised below.

#### Cost of living

##### **Buildings and energy**

- They will help a lot - 7%
- They will help a bit - 25%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 31%
- they will make things a bit worse - 15%
- they will make things much worse -16%
- don't know - 6%

Where people were concerned that they would make things worse comments such as individuals will incur increased costs improving energy efficiency of their home and public spending relating to climate change could result in financial costs to individuals via charges.

##### **Transport**

- They will help a lot - 10%
- They will help a bit - 18%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 29%
- they will make things a bit worse - 21%
- they will make things much worse - 18%
- don't know - 5%

In terms of the reasoning behind making things worse selection we had comments such as cost of travel is increasing, high bus fares, lack of bus routes which necessitates car travel. Also seen comments on EV charging being perceived as too expensive.

### **Waste**

- They will help a lot - 7%
- They will help a bit - 15%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 31%
- they will make things a bit worse - 26%
- they will make things much worse - 18%
- don't know - 3%

Comments here for why some people considered that it would make cost of living worse where that waste disposal is too expensive particularly in terms of brown bins and travel costs to recycling centres.

### **Procurement**

- They will help a lot - 10%
- They will help a bit - 18%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 30%
- they will make things a bit worse - 19%
- they will make things much worse - 19%
- don't know - 5%

### **Business and industry**

- They will help a lot - 8%
- They will help a bit - 16%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 30%
- they will make things a bit worse - 23%
- they will make things much worse - 19%
- don't know - 4%

### **Sequestration**

- They will help a lot - 10%
- They will help a bit - 6%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 50%
- they will make things a bit worse - 13%
- they will make things much worse - 13%
- don't know - 9%

### **Physical health**

#### **Buildings and energy**

- They will help a lot - 14%
- They will help a bit - 39%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 35%
- they will make things a bit worse - 0%
- they will make things much worse - 8%
- don't know - 5%

#### **Transport**

- They will help a lot - 15%
- They will help a bit - 39%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 34%
- they will make things a bit worse - 4%

- they will make things much worse - 8%
- don't know - 1%

### **Waste**

- They will help a lot - 12%
- They will help a bit - 38%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 36%
- they will make things a bit worse - 6%
- they will make things much worse - 5%
- don't know - 3%

### **Procurement**

- They will help a lot - 11%
- They will help a bit - 34%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 41%
- they will make things a bit worse - 0%
- they will make things much worse - 10%
- don't know - 4%

### **Business and industry**

- They will help a lot - 16%
- They will help a bit - 32%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 42%
- they will make things a bit worse - 0%
- they will make things much worse - 7%
- don't know - 4%

### **Sequestration**

- They will help a lot - 34%
- They will help a bit - 38%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 15%
- they will make things a bit worse - 0%

- they will make things much worse - 6%
- don't know - 6%

Comments noted that the natural environment is important to physical health. One comment noted that tree planting may have negative implications to women's health, e.g. through making it easier for attackers.

## **Mental health**

### **Buildings and energy**

- They will help a lot - 15%
- They will help a bit - 29%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 43%
- they will make things a bit worse - 0%
- they will make things much worse -11%
- don't know - 3%

### **Transport**

- They will help a lot - 10%
- They will help a bit - 32%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 44%
- they will make things a bit worse - 4%
- they will make things much worse - 8%
- don't know - 3%

Comment noted that low emissions zones may adversely impact quality of life for those who rely on ICE vehicles.

### **Waste**

- They will help a lot - 9%
- They will help a bit - 26%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 49%
- they will make things a bit worse - 5%

- they will make things much worse - 10%
- don't know - 1%

### **Procurement**

- They will help a lot - 10%
- They will help a bit - 29%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 44%
- they will make things a bit worse - 4%
- they will make things much worse - 9%
- don't know - 5%

### **Business and industry**

- They will help a lot - 10%
- They will help a bit - 30%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 45%
- they will make things a bit worse - 1%
- they will make things much worse - 8%
- don't know - 5%

### **Sequestration**

- They will help a lot - 33%
- They will help a bit - 39%
- They will neither help or make things worse - 15%
- they will make things a bit worse - 1%
- they will make things much worse - 6%
- don't know - 6%

Comments noted that the current quality of the local environment is detrimental to mental health.

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**B - Qualitative Evidence** This is data which describes the effect or impact of a change on a group of people, e.g. some information provided as part of performance reporting.

**Social - case studies; personal / group feedback / other**

As mentioned above the Climate Change Strategy covers the whole Falkirk area and sets out our approach to tackling climate change in Falkirk and achieving our climate change obligations. The accompanying 'Climate Emergency Action Plan' (previously agreed at Executive on 22nd February 2022) sets out a number of actions Falkirk Council will carry out/support to transition to net zero both as an organisation and area wide. There are actions within the strategy such as the Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme that will require it's own individual EPIA.

The Energy and Climate Change Team attended several community events: Stem at Helix on 20th May, Wild Science at Muiravonside on 27th May and Bo'Ness Fair on 30th June.

At the Helix we had around 75 families visit our stall, with a range of ages, gender and ethnic background. People were, mostly, very supportive on what the Council were trying to achieve on climate change and felt that these actions would lead to a better quality of life through reduced air pollution from switching to EVs/sustainable transport. Many parents highlighted their concern for their children and future grandchildren future if we do not act.

Some were concerned that certain behaviour changes may impact quality of life for example buying second hand or swapping one abroad holiday with a staycation. We asked for opinions from young people in attendance what they thing we should do to tackle climate change. This information is included in the strategy but many said solar panels, switching to EVs or swapping car with train/bus or walking/cycling.

The Wild Science event seen around 20 families visit the stall again supportive comments. Nature was more of a feature in these conversations due to the type of event.

These were both science events with families in attendance likely engaged with climate change, so cannot draw a conclusion on this one.

**Best Judgement:**

**Has best judgement been used in place of data/research/evidence?**

Yes

**Who provided the best judgement and what was this based on?**

Best judgement has been used to supplement survey results and anecdotal evidence from community engagement events.

In utilising best judgement we have researched equality impact assessments from other local authorities where there strategy is broadly similar to Falkirk's. The findings from one LAs EIA (based on extensive public consultation) was that their strategy would, mostly, have a positive impact as it benefits all citizens and stakeholders. In any case delivering the outcomes of Falkirk Council's Climate Change Strategy and

delivering on the Climate Emergency Action Plan will also deliver co-benefits such as skills development opportunities, enhanced greenspaces, cleaner air, resilience to climate impacts, community cohesion etc.

We have also looked at a number of reports to help draw conclusions on impact, these are: Age UK, Scottish Government's Strategy on Fuel Poverty, NHS Inform and Outcomes for Care Experienced Children and Young People. Also looked at other Local Authorities Equalities Assessments and the EPIA for the Local Transport and Active Travel Strategies that went to Executive on 11th April 2023.

The Climate Change Strategy has a series of outcomes and the Climate Emergency Action Plan (that sits alongside the strategy) contains actions which will achieve the outcomes of the strategy. Further best judgement is included below.

Outcome 1 - Buildings and energy - improving energy efficiency and decarbonising of Falkirk Council buildings will still ensure that buildings are accessible. It will also mean that buildings are warmer in the winter. The second part of this outcome deals with energy efficiency and will seek to support residents across Falkirk understand what they have to do in relation to this. Actions within the action plan include the Housing Improvement Programme which will ensure Council houses are more energy efficient, improve the EPC banding of the property and help alleviate fuel poverty.

Outcome 2 - Transport - two parts to this outcome first part is in relation to decarbonising fleet. This will have no impact on people or employees with the Council. The second is regarding sustainable transport supporting people to make more sustainable travel choices e.g. active travel or taking the bus/train instead of car. This will link in with the Local Transport Strategy where public consultation has been carried out and a full EPIA to be completed.

Outcome 3 - Waste - this is to help reduce the amount of waste across the Council generates, ensuring that people understand the correct bin to use. Any changes to waste collection will come from the waste team, so we have concluded that there wouldn't be a negative impact on ensuring the public was better engaged with the waste process.

Outcome 4 - procurement - this deals with purchases made for Falkirk Council and we

	<p>conclude that there is no impact on people for this. Any procurement policies will come from the procurement team and EPIA carried out where appropriate.</p> <p>Outcome 5 - business sector, and non-commercial land use - this outcome is about partnering with businesses and industry to support emissions reductions. Work in this area will have a positive impact across all protected characteristics in regards to health through reduced air pollution.</p> <p>Outcome 5 also refers to offsetting emissions through sequestration and many people, through online survey, identified planting trees as being beneficial for the area.</p> <p>Many of the actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan, which sits alongside the strategy (and the initial plan approved at the 22nd February 2022 Executive), will have separate EPIAs for example the Grangemouth Flood Protection Zone and HQ and Arts Centre.</p>
<b>What gaps in data / information were identified?</b>	
<b>Is further research necessary?</b>	No
<b>If NO, please state why.</b>	We have utilised best judgement and taken findings from other Local Authorities who have a Climate Change Strategy similar to what we are outlining.

**SECTION FOUR: ENGAGEMENT**

Engagement with individuals or organisations affected by the policy or proposal must take place

Has the proposal / policy / project been subject to engagement or consultation with service users taking into account their protected characteristics and socio-economic status?	Yes	
If YES, please state who was engagement with.	General public through online survey General public through attendance at community events - anecdotal evidence	
If NO engagement has been conducted, please state why.		
<b>How was the engagement carried out?</b>	<b>What were the results from the engagement? Please list...</b>	
<b>Focus Group</b>	No	
<b>Survey</b>	Yes	Survey results summarised in section 2.
<b>Display / Exhibitions</b>	No	
<b>User Panels</b>	No	
<b>Public Event</b>	Yes	Attended 3 community events, anecdotal evidence from this only. Briefly covered in section 2.
<b>Other: please specify</b>		
Has the proposal / policy/ project been reviewed / changed as a result of the engagement?	Yes	
Have the results of the engagement been fed back to the consultees?	No	
Is further engagement recommended?	Yes	

## SECTION FIVE: ASSESSING THE IMPACT

**Equality Protected Characteristics:** What will the impact of implementing this proposal be on people who share characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010 or are likely to be affected by the proposal / policy / project? This section allows you to consider other impacts, e.g. poverty, health inequalities, community justice, carers etc.

Protected Characteristic	Neutral Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Please provide evidence of the impact on this protected characteristic.
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**Public Sector Equality Duty: Scottish Public Authorities must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance quality of opportunity and foster good relations. Scottish specific duties include:**

				<p>Firstly, buildings and energy - the Council will aim to support residents reduce their energy related emissions through switching to low carbon heating systems and improving energy efficiency which will ultimately help reduce energy. Poor energy efficiency is recognised as a driver of fuel poverty and according to Age UK older households are more than twice as likely to live in extreme fuel poverty than families. We aim to make people more aware of what actions they can take to reduce energy consumption or switch heating system to low carbon and where they can get financial support. If people are in receipt of certain passport or income related benefits e.g. pension credit they are eligible for grant support through Home Energy Scotland's Warmer Home Scotland programme, this is paused for applications now but re-starting October 2023.</p> <p>There were also concerns raised in the comments on online survey that individuals will have to incur the financial costs of improving energy efficiency and switching heating system to low/zero carbon one. These type of comments came from those who did not answer age question but the financial cost will impact those who are homeowners the most. As mentioned above we aim to raise awareness of energy actions that can be taken and where to get financial support to do these.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://www.ageuk.org.uk/scotland/latest-news/2020/january/fuel-poverty-is-putting-older-peoples-health-at-risk/#:~:text=Older%20households%20are%20more%20than%20twice%20as%20likely,fuel%20poverty%2C%20and%20four%20in%20ten%20pensioner%20couples.">https://www.ageuk.org.uk/scotland/latest-news/2020/january/fuel-poverty-is-putting-older-peoples-health-at-risk/#:~:text=Older%20households%20are%20more%20than%20twice%20as%20likely,fuel%20poverty%2C%20and%20four%20in%20ten%20pensioner%20couples.</a></p> <p>Another area of the climate change strategy where there is likely to be a positive impact is through our second transport outcome regarding encouraging active and sustainable travel. According to the EPIA carried out for the Local Transport Strategy (which this outcome links into) the proposals for active and sustainable transport aims to improve accessibility so those of any age can access active and sustainable travel.</p>
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<b>Disability</b>		✓	<p>The positive impact is particularly in relation to building energy and transport related outcomes and actions.</p> <p>Inclusion Scotland notes that energy costs are disproportionately high for disabled people who may need to keep their homes warmer in order to manage pain and mobility as well as higher electricity costs to run vital health equipment. As mentioned above one aim of the strategy is to support people to understand what actions they can take (buildings and energy outcome) and where they can get financial support. Those on certain benefits such as disability living allowance or adult disability payment are eligible for the Home Energy Scotland Warmer Homes Scotland scheme, re-starts October 2023. 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> <p>A comment, in the online survey, from this protected characteristic group stated more support is needed for cycling and walking and more use of rail and buses and the Council is a key facilitator in this. Our second transport outcome aims to support this and links in to the Local Transport Strategy. The EPIA for the LTS identified there was a positive impact on this group due to aims of the LTS such as increasing accessibility and increasing choices of travel.</p>
<b>Sex</b>	✓		<p>No strong evidence to identify an advantage or disadvantage to this group. One comment in the online survey said tree planting may result in environments not welcoming to women as may feel unsafe.</p>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	✓		<p>No strong evidence to identify an advantage or disadvantage to this group. However, according to statistics from UK Government's Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, ethnic minority groups have higher levels of fuel poverty. Note that these are the statistics for England only. According to the Race Equality Framework for Scotland 2016-2030 minority ethnic groups are twice as likely to experience poverty as the majority ethnic population. It is therefore, likely that minority ethnic groups in Scotland are also more likely to be in fuel poverty. The Building and energy outcome of the strategy and the actions, within the action plan, relating to domestic energy will support individuals to improve energy efficiency so that it is no longer a driver of fuel poverty.</p>

<b>Religion / Belief / non-Belief</b>	✓			No strong evidence to identify an advantage or disadvantage to this group. However, According to the United Nations Environment Programme Religious and Environmental Protection report, all religions agree that nature is an act of divinity and should be treated as such. By Falkirk Council delivering on the strategy and actions within the action plane, will lead to supporting nature in the area.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	✓			No strong evidence to identify an advantage or disadvantage to this group.
<b>Transgender</b>	✓			No strong evidence to identify an advantage or disadvantage to this group..
<b>Pregnancy / Maternity</b>	✓			No strong evidence to identify an advantage or disadvantage to this group.
<b>Marriage / Civil Partnership</b>	✓			No strong evidence to identify an advantage or disadvantage to this group.
<b>Poverty</b>		✓		<p>The Scottish Government's strategy for tackling fuel poverty highlights that the majority of households that are in fuel poverty are on a low income. As identified above those in receipt of certain benefits may be eligible for grant support through Home Energy Scotland's Warmer Home Scotland programme, this is paused for applications now but re-starting October 2023. This grant can help with energy efficiency improvements and the installation of renewable technology. The strategy aims to raise awareness of what households can do and where they can get support through linking to our Decarbonise Falkirk website.</p> <p>The transport outcome of the strategy, links into the Local Transport and Active travel strategies. The EPIA for these identified a positive impact for those in poverty as investment in active travel and encouraging its use ,can provide a feasible alternative to the car/public transport which in turn reduces travel costs.</p> <p>Source:  <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/tackling-fuel-poverty-scotland-strategic-approach/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/tackling-fuel-poverty-scotland-strategic-approach/</a></p>

<b>Care Experienced</b>	✓			<p>There is no strong evidence to identify advantage or disadvantage to the 'Care Experienced' group. According to outcomes for care experienced children and young people report, trauma experienced by looked after children and young people in early life means that this group often face complex and often long term mental ill health.</p> <p>Part of the strategy focuses on transport including encouraging active travel, linking into the Council's Local Transport and Active Travel Strategies.</p> <p>The NHS states that regular physical activity (including walking and cycling) can improve the symptoms of some mental health conditions like depression and anxiety. Through encouraging active travel and improving the active travel network, it can provide safer more welcoming spaces to be able to walk, wheel or cycle. It is important, therefore, to link up with local community groups who work with the 'Care Experienced' sector to raise awareness.</p> <p>Sources:  <a href="https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_Education/General%20Documents/CEYP_outcomes_06.16.pdf">https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_Education/General%20Documents/CEYP_outcomes_06.16.pdf</a>  <a href="https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/keeping-active/activities/cycling">https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/keeping-active/activities/cycling</a></p>
<b>Other, health, community justice, carers etc.</b>		✓		<p>Tackling fuel poverty can support people's physical and mental health and wellbeing. Supporting people to understand what they can do to improve energy efficiency and where to get financial help can support those where poor energy efficiency is a driver for fuel poverty. This in turn provides homes that will be warmer in the winter and help to reduce the risk of illnesses such as respiratory related issues.</p> <p>By encouraging people to actively travel (linking in to Active travel strategy) it can support people's physical and mental health as exercise can improve symptoms of depression and anxiety.</p>
<b>Risk (Identify other risks associated with this change)</b>	<p>A few risks have been identified with delivering the outcomes of this strategy 1) low income households will find it difficult to absorb costs of making energy related improvements to their homes. Awareness raising will be key to this as those in receipt of certain benefits can get grant support to help with energy efficiency etc. This is the case for those that privately rent their homes as well as homeowners. 2) the elderly, disabled and low income households are less likely to be able to access our online information of where to get support on improving energy efficiency. Finding alternatives to ensure that everyone is aware of what can be done and where to seek support is key. This is particularly true for the energy, transport and waste outcomes and actions.</p>			

	<b>Evidence of Due Regard</b>
<b>Eliminate Unlawful Discrimination (harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct):</b>	Information and support will be provided to communities to help them understand what part they can play in tackling climate change. The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan can be provided in other formats to support people for example who require screen readers to read through this.
<b>Advance Equality of Opportunity:</b>	Information and support will be provided to communities to help them understand what part they can play in tackling climate change. The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan can be provided in other formats to support people for example who require screen readers to read through this.
<b>Foster Good Relations (promoting understanding and reducing prejudice):</b>	Information and support will be provided to communities to help them understand what part they can play in tackling climate change. The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan can be provided in other formats to support people for example who require screen readers to read through this.

## SECTION SIX: PARTNERS / OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Which sectors are likely to have an interest in or be affected by the proposal / policy / project?		Describe the interest / affect.
<b>Business</b>	Yes	The Climate Change Strategy sets out how Falkirk Council intends to support businesses and what they can do to mitigate climate change. This includes awareness raising of the Energy Efficiency Fund for SMEs
<b>Councils</b>	Yes	Other Local Authorities may look to Falkirk Council's climate change strategy to inform their own.
<b>Education Sector</b>	Yes	The education sector may take an interest in the strategy to help inform their own. Nursery, primary and secondary schools (within Falkirk Council control) will be covered under the Building and Energy outcome due to their buildings being under our control. There are actions within the action plan that relate to improvements in schools e.g. LED lighting and solar PV installation.
<b>Fire</b>	Yes	As a public body the fire service may look to Falkirk Council's strategy to inform their own.
<b>NHS</b>	Yes	As a public body the NHS may look to Falkirk Council's strategy to inform their own.
<b>Integration Joint Board</b>	Yes	The IJB buildings fall under Falkirk Council control and the interest from them will fall under the building and energy outcome in the strategy.
<b>Police</b>	Yes	As a public body the Police may look to Falkirk Council's strategy to inform their own.
<b>Third Sector</b>	Yes	The third sector are likely looking at what Public bodies are doing to tackle climate change and perhaps looking for support on their own climate change strategy.
<b>Other(s): please list and describe the nature of the relationship / impact.</b>		

## SECTION SEVEN: ACTION PLANNING

**Mitigating Actions:** If you have identified impacts on protected characteristic groups in Section 5 please summarise these in the table below detailing the actions you are taking to mitigate or support this impact. If you are not taking any action to support or mitigate the impact you should complete the No Mitigating Actions section below instead.

Identified Impact	To Who	Action(s)	Lead Officer	Evaluation and Review Date	Strategic Reference to Corporate Plan / Service Plan / Quality Outcomes
Improving energy efficiency	low income households, ethnic minority groups and disabled. Also relevant to everyone falling under protected characteristic groups; however, groups above more likely to be experiencing high levels of fuel poverty.	Ensure that the strategy is clear on what can be done to improve energy efficiency and links to where they can get financial support to help them.	Claire Gibson		
Accessing information	Disabled, elderly, ethnic minorities, low income households	These groups may not be able to access our information in the online format. We will work to ensure that there are alternative formats where necessary. Also link in with library colleagues to provide information in leaflet format and if there is scope to run information sessions to support people.	Claire Gibson		

**No Mitigating Actions**

**Please explain why you do not need to take any action to mitigate or support the impact of your proposals.**

<b>Are actions being reported to Members?</b>	Yes
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<b>If yes when and how ?</b>	Executive 17th October 2023
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**SECTION EIGHT: ASSESSMENT OUTCOME**

Only one of following statements best matches your assessment of this proposal / policy / project. Please select one and provide your reasons.

No major change required	Yes	Achieving the outcomes of the Climate Change Strategy and carrying out the actions within our Climate Emergency Action Plan is not anticipated to disadvantage any particular type of protected characteristic. The benefits of the strategy and action plan are open to all.
The proposal has to be adjusted to reduce impact on protected characteristic groups	No	
Continue with the proposal but it is not possible to remove all the risk to protected characteristic groups	No	
Stop the proposal as it is potentially in breach of equality legislation	No	

**SECTION NINE: LEAD OFFICER SIGN OFF**

Lead Officer:

Signature:	<i>Claire Gibson</i>	Date:	02/08/2023
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**SECTION TEN: EPIA TASK GROUP ONLY**

<b>OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF EPIA:</b>	<b>Has the EPIA demonstrated the use of data, appropriate engagement, identified mitigating actions as well as ownership and appropriate review of actions to confidently demonstrate compliance with the general and public sector equality duties?</b>	Yes
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<b>ASSESSMENT FINDINGS</b>	Extensive consultation with public undertaken through online surveys and a number of community events. Research undertaken of both Scottish Government data/guidance and other impact assessments undertaken by other Local Authorities.	
<b>If YES, use this box to highlight evidence in support of the assessment of the EPIA</b>		
<b>If NO, use this box to highlight actions needed to improve the EPIA</b>		

<b>Where adverse impact on diverse communities has been identified and it is intended to continue with the proposal / policy / project, has justification for continuing <u>without making changes been made</u>?</b>	Yes	If YES, please describe: Low potential impacts identified with appropriate mitigations.
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**LEVEL OF IMPACT: The EPIA Task Group has agreed the following level of impact on the protected characteristic groups highlighted within the EPIA**

LEVEL		COMMENTS
<b>HIGH</b>	Yes / No	
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Yes / No	
<b>LOW</b>	No	Low impact. The strategy has been informed and guidance by the outcomes of extensive public engagement and wider research. A number of positive impacts have been identified resulting from delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan. There is no strong evidence to support significant negative impacts on any protected characteristic groups. Proportionate mitigating actions have been agreed for the low potential impacts that have been identified.

**SECTION ELEVEN: CHIEF OFFICER SIGN OFF**

<b>Director / Head of Service:</b>			
<b>Signature:</b>	<i>Malcolm Bennie</i>	<b>Date:</b>	08/09/2023