

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT 2:

East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025

Integrated Impact Assessment Form

(Promoting Equality, Human Rights and Sustainability)



Title of Policy/ Proposal	East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025
Completion Date	Final Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025 anticipated to be published in January 2020
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Type of Initiative:

Policy/Strategy x
Programme/Plan New or Proposed x
Project Changing/Updated
Service Review or existing
Function
Other

1. Briefly describe the policy/proposal you are assessing.

East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy sets out the Council's vision and overall aims for a Net Zero Council and a Carbon Neutral East Lothian. It sets out what the Council will do to tackle climate change over the next 5 years towards achieving these overall aims, and the specific targets and actions to achieve this.

The Climate Change Strategy covers two major aspects of climate change:

- Climate Change Mitigation: this section of the Strategy sets out how we will reduce our emissions to reach Net Zero as soon as reasonably practicable and by 2045, and help to mitigate against further global temperature rise; and
- Climate Change Adaptation: climate change is already impacting upon us, and we set out how we will adapt to and prepare for future changes in our climate. This will help to reduce inequalities, and enable our communities and businesses to be more resilient for the future.

The Vision and Overall Aims of the strategy for responding to the Climate Emergency and tackling climate change mitigation and adaptation in East Lothian are:

“East Lothian Council will take urgent action to make all our Council Services Net Zero as soon as reasonably practicable or in any case by 2045 and will lobby, support and work with government, all relevant agencies, partners and communities to fulfil this commitment. We will also work with our communities and partners towards making East Lothian a carbon neutral county, enabling the county to deliver its part of wider national and international commitments, and to prepare for the impacts of climate change.”

The Climate Change Strategy sets out how East Lothian Council will work in partnership with our local communities, businesses, organisations and individuals to tackle climate change. The Council will also work with its partners in the East Lothian Partnership to help achieve a reduction in carbon emissions, and improve sustainability and equality across East Lothian.

The strategy will embed the principles of Climate Justice into the Council’s Climate Emergency response, to ensure that those most vulnerable in our society, including those in poverty who are already at a socio-economic disadvantage, will not be disproportionately adversely affected by the effects of climate change.

2. Set out a clear understanding of the purpose of the policy being developed or reviewed i.e. objectives, aims, including the context within which it will operate

The Council has produced this Climate Change Strategy to address the following Aims:

1. To take urgent action to make all our Council Services Net Zero as soon as reasonably practicable or in any case by 2045 and to lobby, support and work with all relevant agencies, partners and communities to fulfil this commitment;
2. To work with our communities and partners towards making East Lothian a Carbon Neutral county;
3. To prepare our communities for the impacts of climate change, and adapt to future predicted changes in our climate locally.

The Strategy will contribute to raising awareness of climate change challenges in East Lothian. It also sets out the priorities and actions for the Council and the wider East Lothian community to prepare for and reduce the impacts of climate change and the inequalities that can result, and promote resilient communities.

The Strategy will also contribute to:

- Reducing Inequalities
- Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Contributing to a Thriving Local Economy
- Education, Awareness-raising and Behaviour Change
- Ensuring Cost-effective Action

Based on the global climate emergency and national legislative context, and to address the need to take urgent action to achieve a net zero Council, a carbon neutral East Lothian and prepare for climate change impacts, we have identified the following key Outcomes and we set out how we will work towards these over the 5 years of this strategy:

Outcome 1: East Lothian Council will be a Net Zero and Sustainable Council

Outcome 2: Active Travel and Sustainable Transport are used for everyday journeys, to drastically cut emissions from transport and improve air quality

Outcome 3: Net Zero, Energy Efficient Homes and Buildings that are adapted for a changing climate

Outcome 4: A Resource Efficient and Sustainable East Lothian and the route to Zero Waste

Outcome 5: A Low Carbon and Sustainable Economy

Outcome 6: A Healthy and Resilient Natural Environment and the route to Carbon Neutral

Outcome 7: East Lothian’s Communities are places encouraging a Low Carbon Lifestyle and are prepared for the effects of Climate Change

3. What will change as a result of this policy?

In its declaration of Climate Emergency, East Lothian Council committed to take urgent action to make all our Council Services net Zero Carbon as soon as reasonably practicable or in any case by 2045 and to work with our communities and partners towards making East Lothian a carbon neutral county. The Vision of the Climate Change Strategy addresses these aims and the need to prepare our communities for the impacts of climate change.

In the strategy we set out how the Council will reduce our own emissions and improve sustainability, and how we will lead the way to a carbon neutral and sustainable East Lothian that makes its full contribution to national and international emissions reduction targets and sustainability goals.

The strategy sets out a comprehensive Action Plan for change, which reflects and underpins the priority Outcomes, seeks to deliver actions and target resources over the 5-year period of the strategy, and will be reviewed and updated annually. It builds on existing policies, practices and projects, complementing, amending or replacing these as appropriate. It is considered likely that a range of positive outcomes will be achieved as a result of this strategy.

4. Do I need to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment?

High Relevance	Yes/no
1. The policy/ proposal has consequences for or affects people	Yes
2. The policy/proposal has potential to make a significant impact on equality	Yes
3. The policy/ proposal has the potential to make a significant impact on the economy and the delivery of economic outcomes	Yes
4. The policy/proposal is likely to have a significant environmental impact	Yes
Low Relevance	
5. The policy/proposal has little relevance to equality	No
6. The policy/proposal has negligible impact on the economy	No
7. The policy/proposal has no/ minimal impact on the environment	No
If you have identified low relevance please give a brief description of your reasoning here and send it to your Head of Service to record.	
N/A	

If you have answered yes to 1, 2, or 3 above, please proceed to complete the Integrated Impact Assessment.

If you have identified that your project will have a significant environmental impact (4), you will need to consider whether you need to complete a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Consideration of Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Climate Change Strategy (CCS) will have positive impacts on the environment and sustainability through measures identified to mitigate against climate change.

The CCS is an over-arching document that brings together existing strategies, policies, initiatives and management plans from across East Lothian Council into one place. These existing strategies, initiatives, policies and management plans set out:

- how the Council will address infrastructure requirements, including infrastructure for active travel and sustainable transport, green networks, flood protection;
- how and where the Council has allocated land for new developments;
- proposed use of technologies including Low and Zero Carbon Generating Technologies (e.g. heat pumps, solar PV, district heating, wind turbines, biogas);
- proposals such as improved energy efficiency of housing;
- management proposals e.g. for waste management; countryside site management for biodiversity;
- how we will support communities e.g. the Resilient Communities initiative.

These are all relevant to the key aims of the CCS, to address climate change mitigation (reducing carbon emissions) and climate change adaptation (how our communities can adapt to a changing climate). They are included in the CCS, to draw together all of the work already underway across the Council and the future proposals and developments.

Accordingly, it is these key existing East Lothian Council strategies which will address climate change adaptation and mitigation, and which influence and inform the delivery of the Climate Change Strategy, specifically:

- East Lothian Local Transport Strategy 2018–24
- Active Travel Improvement Plan 2018–24
- East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018
- East Lothian Local Housing Strategy 2018-23
- East Lothian Open Space Strategy 2018
- Green Networks Strategy Supplementary Planning Guidance

Each of the above strategies has been through the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process.

It is the purpose of the SESplan¹ Strategic Development Plan (SDP) to identify sites for new developments, including housing and transport infrastructure. The East Lothian Local Development Plan allocates sites for housing, transport infrastructure etc, and

¹ SESplan refers to the South East Scotland Strategic Development Planning Authority, covering the administrative areas of City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian, Scottish Borders and the southern half of Fife.

policies including on energy and low carbon technologies, transport, housing, green networks and flood protection.

Given this, environmental impacts are considered to be contained within the SESplan SDP and East Lothian Local Development Plan as opposed to the Climate Change Strategy. Accordingly, a full SEA is carried out in relation to the SESplan SDP and East Lothian LDP. Through formal determinations made by local authorities across Scotland, including East Lothian Council, this is the consistent approach taken in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act.

A SEA pre-screening report for the Climate Change Strategy has been submitted to the SEA Gateway. No concerns have been raised by the SEA Consultation Authorities.

5. What information/data/ consultation have you used to inform the policy to date?

Evidence	Comments: what does the evidence tell you?
Data on populations in need	<p>All populations in East Lothian are ‘in need’ in respect of climate change. Scotland’s climate is already changing and we have to respond to the challenges this is causing and the opportunities this brings. In future years it is predicted that temperatures will rise, winter rainfall will increase whilst summer rainfall decreases and heatwaves, droughts, storms and floods will become more frequent. This will have a major impact on East Lothian’s communities, businesses, society, infrastructure and natural environment. Climate change will impact upon everyone across the county.</p> <p>East Lothian has a population of 105,790. There has been an 8.5% increase over the last ten years compared to 4.5% growth across Scotland, which constitutes the third largest increase nationally, behind the City of Edinburgh and Midlothian. The population is projected to increase further by 8.6% from 2016–26, compared with 3.2% across Scotland. This is the second highest projected population increase nationally.</p> <p>Forming an integral part of the Council’s growth agenda, an additional 10,050 new homes are anticipated to be built in the county by 2024. Development of the new town of Blindwells is underway in East Lothian, and significant expansion is underway at Wallyford, Craighall / Musselburgh, Haddington and Dunbar. Population growth will significantly increase the need and demand for housing, as well as infrastructure, amenities and services i.e. education, roads, rail, public transport, health</p>

	<p>and social care and community services. Everyone in East Lothian will be impacted upon by climate change.</p> <p>https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2018</p> <p>https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/population-projections/sub-national-pp-16/pop-proj-principal-2016-tab-publication.pdf</p> <p>Scotland’s population is ageing, as the increase in the population of older age groups has been higher than younger age groups over the last 20 years. The largest increase has been in the age 75+ group (+31%), compared with the 0-15 age group, which shows the most significant decrease (-10%). 18% of the national population is aged 65+, compared with 20% in East Lothian.</p> <p>The number of people of pensionable age is projected to increase in all council areas across Scotland, with the second largest increase projected in East Lothian at 42% from 2014-39. Given the particular vulnerabilities of older people to climate change, this is a key concern for the Strategy.</p>
<p>Data on service uptake / access</p>	<p>UK Climate projections are available through the Met Office, updated annually.</p> <p>A significant proportion of carbon emissions come from housing. Climate change, fuel poverty and energy efficiency are intrinsically linked. Both climate change and fuel poverty can be tackled at the same time, as they have similar root causes and share the same solutions. The key link between climate change and fuel poverty is that fossil fuels are polluting the environment as well as increasing in cost, which subsequently increases energy bills. Fuel poverty and climate change are both exacerbated by housing that is not energy efficient and / or not well insulated. If we can make our homes more energy efficient and tackle fuel poverty, ensuring that people do not have to pay such large energy bills, this will help mitigate climate change and also promote health and wellbeing. Improving housing will help to a degree with income maximisation, however, for those who rely on government assistance via social security, income level is a key factor, especially in the context of rising cost of food and commodities. The East Lothian Local Housing Strategy 2018-23 sets out data re uptake of energy efficiency schemes and fuel poverty advice services.</p> <p>https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/13022/local_housing_strategy_2018-23</p> <p>Interventions have been underway across East Lothian for many years to improve active travel and sustainable transport. These have contributed to increased awareness of active and sustainable transport modes, engagement with active & sustainable travel across our communities (particularly by Area Partnerships, who have set up active & sustainable travel sub-groups), increased use of the Core Path and National Cycle Network as measured by counter data, and levels of public transport use.</p>

	<p>Data from Sustrans annual 'Hands Up Scotland' Survey of modes of travel to school shows that compared with other Scottish local authorities, East Lothian schools have regularly had the highest number of pupils travelling actively (walking, cycling, scooting) and sustainably to school. Electric vehicle charging points are being rolled out across the county, including providing on-street charging points in response to requests from residents without a private driveway (i.e. no means to plug in an electric car at their own house).</p> <p>Data collected by Waste Services shows an increase in recycling rates by households across East Lothian.</p>
<p>Data on quality / outcomes</p>	<p>Data on quality / outcomes is derived from a range of sources. Identifying baseline levels and researching measures to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council's assets and processes can be achieved to an extent through annual statutory climate reporting to the Scottish Government / Sustainable Scotland Network and the Council's carbon management plan.</p> <p>The UK's carbon emissions statistics by local authority area are published annually by the UK Government Department of Energy and Climate Change. This data shows that carbon emissions were 11.1 tonnes per person in East Lothian in 2017, compared with 15.3 tonnes per person in 2005. Figures are high compared to the national average due to high levels of emissions from the Dunbar Cement Plant and relatively high levels of emissions from road transport, given the rurality of East Lothian's towns and villages.</p> <p>It is also helpful to consider CO2 emissions per person that are 'within the scope of influence of local authorities', excluding emissions from large industrial installations; motorway traffic; diesel railways and land use / forestry. CO2 emissions per person are also reducing with regard to emissions within the scope of East Lothian Council, showing a similar pattern to the national picture. It is anticipated that implementing an East Lothian Climate Change Strategy will encourage emissions per person to reduce further in future years.</p> <p>Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2017</p> <p>Our climate impacts upon energy use within our homes and how we use energy impacts upon climate change. The temperature difference between the outside and inside of our homes in winter is critical to influencing energy use within the home. If a household heated its home to 25°C during winter, the house would use more energy compared with heating a house to 15°C during summer. Energy from housing is therefore a critical contributor to carbon emissions and climate change.</p>

	<p>The carbon footprint for housing in East Lothian is 184,000t/CO2 in 2015. It is evident this has been reducing year on year from 2012 onwards. The East Lothian Local Housing Strategy 2018-23 provides data on climate change, energy efficiency, fuel poverty and climate change. https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/13022/local_housing_strategy_2018-23</p> <p>Through work on the Strategy, we are continually increasing knowledge and understanding of the impacts of climate change, both past trends and future projections for East Lothian, on our communities, assets, services and priorities, and the measures necessary to reduce these impacts. This enables some consideration of households in need.</p> <p>Musselburgh, Haddington and West Barns are at particular risk of flooding and heavy downpours, with flood prevention schemes in place and coastal flood defences along East Lothian’s coast.</p>
<p>Research / literature evidence</p>	<p>The following areas of research were undertaken to inform the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy and legal drivers for mitigating against and adapting to climate change; • Identifying and working with key stakeholders to identify climate change mitigation measures already underway, and the opportunities for developing and extending these; • Identifying baseline levels and researching measures to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council’s assets and processes; • Increasing knowledge and understanding of the impacts of climate change, both past trends and future projections for East Lothian, on our communities, assets, services and priorities, and the measures necessary to reduce these impacts. <p>A wide range of research / literature evidence informs and underpins this IIA including although not limited to:</p> <p>https://www.climatejust.org.uk/socially-vulnerable-groups-sensitive-climate-impacts</p> <p>https://www.climatejust.org.uk/resources/vulnerability-heatwavesdrought</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-government-report</p> <p>https://www.housinglin.org.uk/Topics/type/Building-comfort-for-old-age-Designing-and-managing-thermal-comfort-in-low-carbon-housing-for-older-people/</p>

	<p>http://sei-international.org/mediamanager/documents/Publications/Future/climate_change_growing_old.pdf</p> <p>http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/174676/0048938.pdf</p> <p>http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/climate-change-social-justice-full.pdf</p>
<p>Service user experience information</p>	<p>East Lothian Council is committed to ensuring that local communities and other key stakeholders continue to have a genuine role in developing the Strategy and Action Plan, to ensure the Strategy reflects local issues and aspirations. A key aim of the Strategy is to encourage and facilitate behaviour change to mitigate against climate change amongst an aware and engaged population. Awareness-raising and public engagement were key aspects of the development of this Strategy, as the Council will be able to achieve more by working in partnership with communities, organisations, businesses and individuals.</p> <p>A public consultation to inform the development of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan took place during autumn 2018. The consultation consisted of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public drop-in events: In order to raise awareness and encourage public engagement across East Lothian, a series of public drop-in events took place around the county with one in each of East Lothian’s Area Partnership areas. These coincided with Scotland’s Climate Week 2018. • Online public consultation: The online survey ran concurrently with the consultation drop-in events, to provide an alternative method for people to engage with the development of the Strategy. • Email: People could also email comments / feedback to the Council’s designated email address. A total of 166 people took part in the consultation to inform the development of the Climate Change Strategy: 105 people came along to the drop-in events, 52 took part in the online consultation, and 9 people emailed additional comments / feedback. • Respondents provided information, feedback, local views and ideas from across East Lothian on how the Council and our communities can work together to tackle climate change. • Comments were received on a wide range of topics, including planning, housing, renewable energy, local food growing, transport, biodiversity, greenspaces, waste recycling, business and the local economy. • The information obtained was considered, analysed and used to inform the Strategy and Action Plan. <p>A formal public consultation on the Consultative Draft East Lothian Climate Change Strategy ran for an 8 week period from 27th May to 22nd July 2019. The Draft Strategy was highly publicised and made available on the Council’s website at the Consultation Hub</p>

	<p>https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/policy-partnerships/climate-change-strategy/ .</p> <p>A link to the consultation was promoted via the Council’s Facebook and Twitter accounts and a press release. Posters promoting the consultation were sent to all East Lothian Council public venues including libraries, local offices, sports centres. Stakeholders, including local groups/organisations and national agencies, as well as interested members of the public, were emailed directly to inform them of the consultation.</p> <p>160 responses were received to the consultation on the Draft East Lothian Climate Change Strategy (116 online responses via the Consultation Hub and 44 emailed responses). Many responses were detailed, extensive and carefully considered, in some cases many pages long. Responses were received from 16 groups / organisations, and from businesses, consultants, school pupils, young people, older people, individual householders and residents.</p> <p>In addition, a separate climate change survey was produced for children and young people, which asked young people which topics are most important to them to tackle climate change in East Lothian. The survey was circulated to all East Lothian Council primary and secondary schools in June 2019, and to summer clubs, lunch clubs and community groups over the summer. It was also placed on the Consultation Hub alongside the main consultation documents, and on the Young Scot website, with the incentive of Young Scot reward points for completing the survey. A note of the Key Points of the consultation was also produced for young people and placed on the Consultation Hub. 116 responses were received to this survey from children and young people.</p>
<p>Consultation and involvement findings</p>	<p>Findings from consultation and engagement are set out in ‘Supporting Document 1: Consultation and Engagement: East Lothian Council’s Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025’. This evidences all feedback obtained through the formal consultation process and how this has been used to influence the Strategy.</p>
<p>Good practice guidelines</p>	<p>While there are no good practice guidelines pertaining to climate change strategies as such, the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 sets out statutory duties for East Lothian Council. The Scottish Government has produced guidance for public bodies on implementing their duties under the Act:</p> <p>https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-bodies-climate-change-duties-putting-practice-guidance-required-part/</p> <p>As a public body, the Council is expected to lead by example in reducing emissions, and to deliver the Scottish Government’s Climate Change Plan at a local level. The Council is required to influence and enable positive behaviours, drive change, and act as an exemplar of climate action and</p>

	<p>low carbon innovation in the transition to a sustainable and inclusive low carbon economy. These key principles are embedded in the Strategy.</p> <p>We anticipate further guidance, policy and legislation to enable us to fully implement all measures to tackle the Climate Emergency and to meet the new stringent emissions targets for Scotland to reach Net Zero emissions by 2045, as set out in the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.</p> <p>Adaptation Scotland has produced guidance for the public sector on preparing for the impacts of future climate change including service delivery https://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/</p>
Other (please specify)	N/A
Is any further information required? How will you gather this?	As above

6. How does the policy meet the different needs of groups in the community?

	Issues identified and how the strategy addresses these
<p>Equality Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older people 	<p>East Lothian has an ageing population. Older people generally face more harm from climate change compared with other adults, particularly very frail older people, with older people biophysically more susceptible to flooding and heatwaves.</p> <p>Older people may be less able to prepare for and cope during floods. Difficulties with balance, strength and mobility can make protecting homes from flooding more challenging. Flooding can cause higher mortality rates among older people due to secondary health impacts such as hypothermia and heart problems. Older age groups may also be associated with other characteristics such as low incomes, social isolation, poor health and living in certain types of housing, which can increase their exposure to floods i.e. single level dwellings where possessions are stored downstairs and more likely to be damaged.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people and children 	<p>Temperature regulation can be less efficient for older people and older people in care homes in particular, can be disproportionately affected by heatwave events. Older people have higher rates of physical and / or mental health issues in care homes compared with the general population, which can make them more sensitive and less able to adapt to high temperatures. Often, specialist housing can be designed and operated in accordance with the thermal requirements in mind of residents who are most frail. Generally, older people can be reluctant to cool their homes by opening windows i.e. fear of crime, they may not be able to do so or may not be permitted to do so.</p> <p>Difficulties coping in heatwaves can be accentuated when people have specific health problems which also affect thermo-regulation, such as chronic cardiovascular, respiratory illness, diabetes, renal diseases, nervous system disorders, Parkinson’s disease and emphysema.</p> <p>Some older people may be bed-bound, unable to leave home daily or unable to care for themselves for other reasons, such as through living with dementia or other degenerative illness. Older people are also sensitive to disproportionate impacts from air pollution (which can be connected to heatwaves), drought, cold weather, food and water borne viruses and UV radiation.</p> <p>Some residential dwellings accentuate the impacts of very hot or cold conditions and local evidence shows a direct correlation between old people, disrepair and fuel poverty.</p> <p>Evidence suggests that children and babies can face disproportionate effects from climate related impacts. They are biophysically susceptible to heat stress from hot weather. The bodies of young children and babies create more heat energy, they sweat less, and dehydration affects them quicker than the general adult population. They are also less able to adapt their own clothing and behaviour in the face of extreme weather.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women, men and transgender people (includes issues relating to pregnancy and maternity) • Disabled people (includes physical disability, learning disability, sensory impairment, long-term medical conditions, mental health problems) • Minority ethnic people (includes Gypsy/Travellers, migrant workers, non-English speakers) 	<p>Flooding has been associated with increased mental health issues and behavioural problems. The impacts of disruption to school and home life can be significant.</p> <p>Living in a cold and / or damp home can have a negative impact upon children, increasing the incidence of minor illnesses and exacerbating the severity of pre-existing illnesses.</p> <p>Air pollution is a significant risk to children, particularly from idling vehicles around schools.</p> <p>Difficulties coping in heatwaves can be accentuated in pregnancy. Mobility issues may mean pregnant women could potentially be more impacted by severe weather / flooding events.</p> <p>People with a physical disability can have less ability to respond to and recover from climate impacts as it may take them longer to help themselves or seek help from others. A person's ability to respond in the event of a flood or heatwave will depend to an extent on their personal mobility. Some people with a physical disability also have other characteristics which increase their vulnerability such as old age and or ill health.</p> <p>Obtaining help during extreme weather events can be problematic, particularly during power cuts and / or with infrastructure affected and transport disrupted. Physical isolation from medical services may make getting help more difficult in rural areas of the county.</p> <p>Gypsy / Travellers have the lowest life expectancy of any group in the UK and high infant mortality rates. As a group, their health is typically poorer than that of the general population and poorer than that of non-Gypsy / Travellers in deprived areas. In common with other sections of society, there is a clear relationship between quality of housing and quality of health, but given the specific accommodation experiences of Gypsy / Travellers, this relationship is intensified, with clear links to the environment and weather. Gypsy / Travellers are likely to be more susceptible to climate</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugees and asylum seekers • People with different religions or beliefs (includes people with no religion or belief) • Lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual people • People who are unmarried, married or in a civil partnership 	<p>change and sensitive to climate impacts, due to their distinct accommodation requirements and importance of the immediate outdoor environment. Gypsy / Travellers are more likely to become displaced as a result of flooding, occupying mobile homes and caravans which are less resilient to and particularly at risk from storms and flooding. It will become increasingly important to ensure adequate drainage is in place, to withstand higher groundwater levels. Environmental factors e.g. having access to running water and maintaining dry and adequately heated homes is challenging in the face of extreme weather and this can impact upon both mental and physical health.</p> <p>Given low life expectancy, it is likely that as a result of lifestyles, Gypsy / Travellers are sensitive to disproportionate impacts from air pollution (which can be connected to heatwaves), drought, cold weather, food and water borne viruses and UV radiation.</p> <p>East Lothian has welcomed a small group of Syrian families in recent years. Asylum Seekers are not entitled to claim public funds (most welfare benefits and social housing) – they may be able to access help with housing and financial support from the Home Office if they are destitute. However, there are a group with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). This group will experience a higher level of disadvantages than those who are unemployed or on benefits.</p> <p>No differential impact.</p> <p>No differential impact.</p> <p>No differential impact.</p>
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<p>Those vulnerable to falling into poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployed and people on benefits 	<p>People on low incomes are less able to prepare for, respond to and recover from extreme weather events e.g. flooding and heatwaves.</p> <p>There is considerable evidence about the connections between income and health. People on low incomes have fewer choices in terms of goods and services, may suffer lower self-esteem, participate less in social activities and be more likely to experience stress and anxiety than people who have higher incomes. People on low incomes are more likely to be sensitive to the impacts of heat-wave events than those on higher incomes.</p> <p>People on lower incomes are more likely to have increased exposures to temperature extremes. This can come as a result of exposures at work and at home. Work - some low income occupations involve exposure to heat due to working outdoors, working on tasks which involve high temperatures and/or working in confined spaces. Home – People on low incomes living in accommodation requiring adaptation may not be able to afford the necessary adaptations to cool their homes in summer or to heat their homes in winter.</p> <p>Unemployed people and people on benefits tend to be more at risk of fuel poverty as these groups typically spend a large proportion of time at home and income will be low. With an ageing population and a likely growth in the numbers of disabled people it is likely that there will be an increased group whose health and wellbeing is potentially affected by fuel poverty.</p> <p>People living in higher crime areas may be unwilling to open their windows to let their homes cool down, especially at night, for fear of burglary. Furthermore, people on lower incomes are more likely to have poor security measures in the home and far less likely to have enhanced security measures compared with people on higher incomes.</p> <p>People on low incomes are less likely to have home contents insurance than those on higher incomes and</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single Parents and vulnerable families • Pensioners • Looked after children / Those leaving care settings (including children and young people and those with illness) • Homeless people 	<p>may not be able to afford flood resilience measures for their homes.</p> <p>Covered elsewhere in this Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Form</p> <p>Covered elsewhere in this IIA Form</p> <p>Covered elsewhere in this IIA Form</p> <p>Where social networks are relatively good there is evidence of a better response to emergency situations and quicker recovery. However some people lack the social support networks to help them respond to and recover from flood events, this is likely to include homeless people in temporary accommodation. Homeless people with few social networks may also struggle to maintain continuity of treatment in relation to physical or mental health treatments.</p> <p>Critically, rough sleepers are perhaps most susceptible of all to extreme weather events, with the recent Waugh report (2018) on Health and Homelessness showing a high rate of winter deaths in relation to rough sleepers compared with the general population. Rough sleepers are more at risk from disproportionate impacts from air pollution (which can be connected to heatwaves), drought, cold weather, food and water borne viruses and UV radiation.</p> <p>Generally, carers spend a significant proportion of time caring for relatives at home and given this, they face similar issues to older people, people with low mobility and people on low incomes. The impacts of climate change and extreme weather events can affect anyone, but carers who are socially isolated potentially face more serious harm.</p> <p>People with a conviction are likely to face the same issues as rough sleepers, people in temporary</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers (including young carers) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those involved in the community justice system 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those living in the most deprived communities (bottom 20% SIMD areas) • People with low literacy/numeracy • Others e.g. veterans 	<p>accommodation, people on low incomes and those who are socially isolated.</p> <p>People living in the most deprived communities are likely to face similar issues to those who are unemployed and in receipt of benefits.</p> <p>It can be more difficult for those with low literacy to have a voice in respect of protecting themselves against climate change e.g. people with low levels of literacy may find it difficult to obtain contents insurance and to organise flood resilience measures for their homes. Access to information about Climate Change might also be difficult.</p> <p>Being particularly susceptible to homelessness, mental health conditions and mobility issues, veterans may experience similar vulnerabilities as set out previously.</p>
<p>Geographical communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural/ semi-rural communities • Farming Communities 	<p>Rural / semi-rural communities – East Lothian comprises six main towns with corresponding rural outlying villages. A settlement is defined as ‘a group of high density postcodes whose combined population rounds to 500 people or more’. Analysis of settlement areas highlights that at mid-2012, around 2,000 people aged 65+ were living out-with settlement areas. This is a significant number of older people living in rural / semi-rural areas, where the combined population rounds to 499 people or less and is likely to impact upon the delivery of service provision at times of extreme weather e.g. flooding in rural areas can restrict access to medicine and carers.</p> <p>Rural communities, particularly those in the foothills of the Lammermuir Hills, are more likely to be affected by transport issues in extreme weather events, e.g. road closures due to snow, flooding or windblown trees, which will affect their ability to respond and the ability of emergency responders to reach them.</p> <p>Agriculture is an important sector in East Lothian, and many people are employed in farming and agriculture. The Agriculture sector contributes significantly to Scotland’s greenhouse gas emissions, and the Scottish Government will set out in its Climate</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Communities 	<p>Change Plan how this will be tackled. It is important to embed Climate Justice in addressing this, and ensuring a fair and just transition to low carbon for our farming communities. Ensuring a Just Transition is embedded in our Climate Change Strategy.</p> <p>People living in areas with limited greenspace, especially in urban areas, may experience more extreme impacts from events like flooding and heat-waves. 'Green infrastructure' provides a way to improve local environments and better regulate climate change and extreme weather impacts.</p> <p>The impacts of climate change and extreme weather events can affect anyone, but people living in certain types of localities have the potential for more serious harm. Areas which are more built up than others are more likely to be associated with higher temperatures, especially during heat waves. They can also be associated with higher rates of runoff from extreme rainfall, although this is also affected by other factors such as drainage infrastructure and topographic characteristics.</p> <p>Areas at potential risk from flooding exist in Haddington and Musselburgh.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal communities 	<p>Coastal areas may be severely affected by climate change in the future. Some are already experiencing extreme storms or floods and the effects of sea level rise and coastal erosion. Climate change will pose risks and challenges for people, coastal economies and local industry. It may also affect access to, and quality of, basic goods and services.</p> <p>Coastal areas are vulnerable to climate change because of rising sea levels and wave heights and accelerated coastal erosion – especially communities relying on the immediate coastal area for their residence, communications and economic and social activities. Many are also vulnerable to climate change because of socio-economic issues such as high proportions of older residents and transient populations, low employment levels and high seasonality of work, physical isolation and poor transport links.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other 	<p>Several key towns and communities in East Lothian, including Musselburgh and Haddington, are at risk from flooding. Their degree of risk is determined by their proximity to rivers and the sea. Three basic types of flooding are considered relevant, as follows - Fluvial - Flooding from a river or watercourse; pluvial - flooding from overland flow, prior to entering a river or watercourse and coastal - flooding from the sea.</p>
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7. Are there any other factors which will affect the way this policy impacts on the community or staff groups?

No

8. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors?

If yes, how have you included equality and human rights considerations into the contract?

If any small elements of the Strategy are to be carried out by contractors, equality and human rights considerations and local community benefits would be considered through the Council’s Procurement Policy and IIAs.

9. Have you considered how you will communicate information about this policy or policy change to those affected e.g. to those with hearing loss, speech impairment or English as a second language?

The Strategy will be available in different formats and languages upon request.

10. Please consider how your policy will impact on each of the following?

Objectives	Comments
Equality and Human rights	
Promotes / advances equality of opportunity e.g. improves access to and quality of services, status	The Strategy aims to reduce inequalities, promoting equality of opportunity, setting out a wide range of actions to mitigate against identified inequalities and promoting the concept / adhering to the principles of Climate Justice.

	<p>Climate change will affect different people and places unevenly, and so is likely to lead to inequalities within and across nations, and between current and future generations, so creating injustice. Internationally, climate justice is linked with an agenda for human rights and international development, and sharing the benefits and burdens associated with climate stabilisation, as well as concerns about the impacts of climate change (see the work of the <u>Mary Robinson Foundation</u>).</p> <p>In the UK, climate justice relates to concerns about the inequitable outcomes for different people and places associated with vulnerability to climate impacts and the fairness of policy and practice responses to address climate change and its consequences. It has been defined as: <i>Ensuring that collectively and individually we have the ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate change impacts – and the policies to mitigate or adapt to them – by considering existing vulnerabilities, resources and capabilities.</i></p> <p><i>By ‘just’ we mean: some chance of a safe climate for future generations; an equal distribution of the remaining global carbon budget between countries; and a transition in the UK in which the costs are distributed progressively, and where everyone’s essential needs for housing, transport and energy use are met.</i></p> <p>https://www.climatejust.org.uk/messages/why-does-climate-justice-matter</p> <p>The Climate Change Strategy also seeks to embed Sustainability across East Lothian Council, and will contribute towards addressing at local level the following UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities • SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production • SDG 13: Climate Action • SDG 14: Life below Water • SDG 15: Life on Land
Promotes good relations within and between people with protected characteristics and tackles harassment	N/A
Promotes participation, inclusion, dignity and self-control over decisions	The Strategy consultation and engagement has promoted participation from stakeholders, service users and vulnerable groups, taking a co-production approach to developing the document where possible.

	The Strategy aims to promote the dignity and inclusion of all groups, ensuring people can make their own climate change related decisions where possible and promoting community empowerment re specific community led projects.
Builds family support networks, resilience and community capacity	The Strategy aims to build and improve community resilience and community capacity in respect of tackling and responding to climate change, particularly with regard to adaptation.
Reduces crime and fear of crime	N/A
Promotes healthier lifestyles including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • diet and nutrition, • sexual health, • substance misuse • Exercise and physical activity. • Life-skills 	<p>The Strategy promotes active travel and an active, outdoor lifestyle as part of a lower carbon lifestyle promoted by the strategy – which will have implications for improving physical and mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The Strategy also promotes allotments and local food growing as part of a low carbon lifestyle – this will have implications for diet and nutrition, by encouraging growing healthy fresh vegetables and fruit locally.</p> <p>The Strategy also seeks to promote healthier lifestyles for those groups identified as having poor health and promote life-skills to enable resilience to climate impacts.</p>
Environmental	
Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in East Lothian (including carbon management)	<p>The central purpose of the Climate Change Strategy is to set out how East Lothian Council, and the wider East Lothian community, can reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with national targets, through a combination of infrastructure improvements and behaviour change actions. These measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce need to travel / promote sustainable forms or transport • Enhance the natural environment and biodiversity • Improve the physical environment e.g. housing quality, public and green space • Improve air quality / air pollution • Encourage resource efficiency (energy, water, materials and minerals) and reduce waste.
Plan for future climate change	
Pollution: air/ water/ soil/ noise	
Protect coastal and inland waters	
Enhance biodiversity	
Encourage resource efficiency (energy, water, materials and minerals)	
Public Safety: Minimise waste generation/ infection control/ accidental injury /fire risk	

Reduce need to travel / promote sustainable forms of transport	<p>The Strategy also sets out a strategic approach to planning for future climate change and has strong links with other East Lothian strategies and plans including those related to active & sustainable transport, waste management, air quality, greenspace management, biodiversity and flood protection.</p> <p>The Strategy includes a wide range of measures to increase energy efficiency, to both mitigate climate change and also reduce fuel poverty. It recognises the importance of new energy efficient housing, sustainable travel and the need for ‘placemaking’ in relation to new housing developments, to ensure social inclusion of vulnerable groups and improving the physical environment through increasing good quality, energy efficient housing stock, with appropriate green space, play areas for children etc.</p>
Improves the physical environment e.g. housing quality, public and green space	
Economic	
Maximises income and /or reduces income inequality	<p>The Climate Change Strategy sets out how East Lothian can move towards a Low Carbon Economy. Key aspects of developing a Low Carbon Economy include developing local economies and thriving town centres, which reduce the need to travel and reduce the distance goods need to travel. This promotes local employment and access to local jobs, reducing travel costs particularly for those with less means to pay for travel.</p> <p>This links with key objectives of East Lothian’s Economic Development Strategy and Town Centre Strategies.</p> <p>As above.</p> <p>Opportunities to develop key low carbon sectors, such as renewables, may improve local employment opportunities in the future.</p>
Helps young people into positive destinations	
Supports local business	
Helps people to access jobs (both paid and unpaid)	
Improving literacy and numeracy	
Improves working conditions, including equal pay	
Improves local employment opportunities	

11. Action Plan

Identified negative impact	Mitigating circumstances	Mitigating actions	Timeline	Responsible person
Older people are particularly sensitive to climate change, which is a concern in East Lothian, given the ageing population, particularly when	An assessment of older people has been undertaken for housing / health and social care related	Consideration to be given to risk factors such as flooding in coastal communities	Over the period of the Strategy, by 2024	Jennifer Lothian, Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Officer

correlated with rural outlying villages.	purposes, which provides significant data on population change, projections, levels of need, healthy life expectancy and rural living.	/ Musselburgh town centre overlaid with a mapping exercise re older people, to enable risk to be better managed.		
Gypsy/Travellers have limited options in which to heat their mobile homes often having to use electric car meters which are expensive	Gypsy/Traveller Needs Assessment has been undertaken for the Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023 which provides data on the population and difficulties faced by this group.	Through procured support service, enable Gypsy/ Travellers to access benefits around fuel poverty to reduce fuel costs.	Over the period of the Strategy, by 2024	Jennifer Lothian, Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Officer
Cost of Climate Change adaptations/ mitigations might mean they are less likely to be taken up by individuals experiencing poverty (despite these being the hardest hit groups).	Information and awareness raising in a variety of formats will help to address this	Co-ordinated promotion and publicity around Climate Change mitigation and adaptation measures; accessibility of the information to a range of groups	Over the period of the Strategy, by 2024	Jennifer Lothian, Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Officer

Through annual reviews of the Strategy, ongoing monitoring of climate impacts upon equality groups will be carried out, outcomes for equality groups taken cognisance of and any issues addressed where the strategy is not considered to be meeting the needs of equality groups.

Through Strategy implementation, support will be provided to organisations working with communities who are vulnerable to climate change to develop fair and equitable responses to increase local resilience.

12. Sign off by Head of Service

Name: Douglas Proudfoot

Date: 10 January 2020