



LHEES Phase 1 Pilots: social evaluation

Dr Faye Wade & Prof Jan Webb

And participating national and local government
representatives and their project partners





Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES)

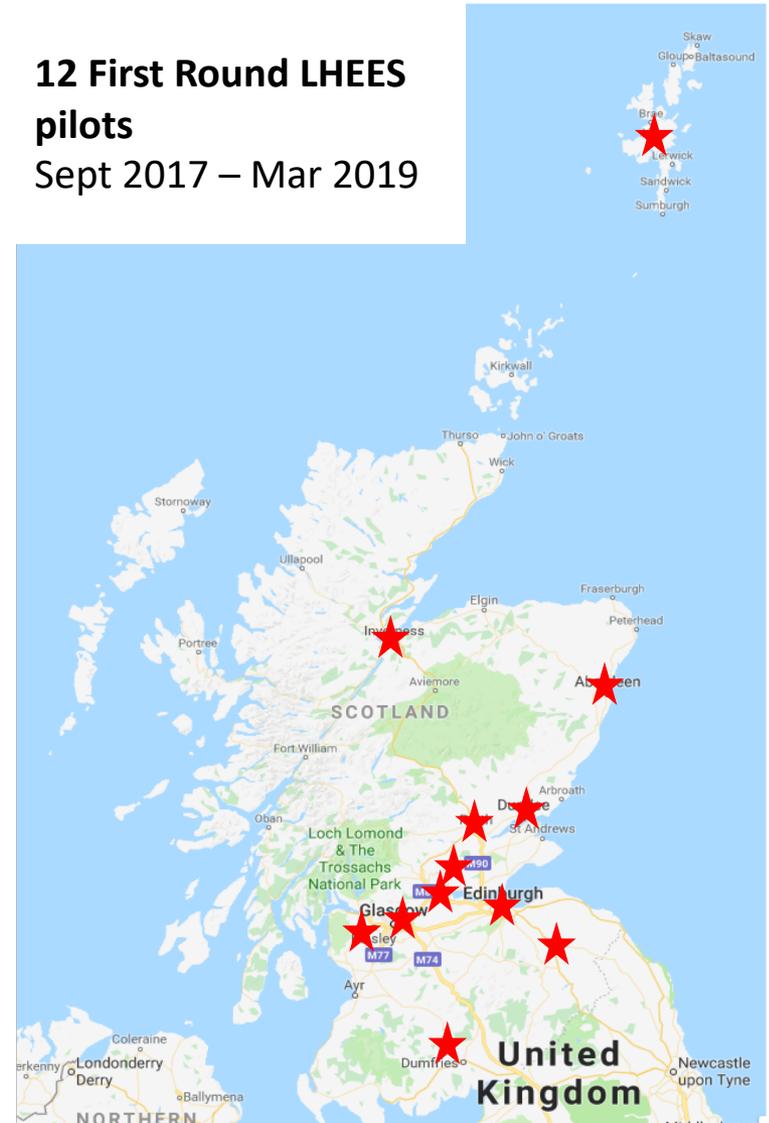
1. An **assessment of existing local and national strategies** and data availability
2. **Authority-wide** assessment of **existing building stock's** energy performance and heat supply
3. Authority-wide **setting of aggregate targets** for heat demand reduction and decarbonisation of buildings - short and long term
4. Conduct **socio-economic assessment** of potential energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation solutions
5. Selection of areas/ prioritisation of opportunities leading to the **designation of zones**
6. **Costing & phasing** of delivery programmes

Evaluation of LHEES pilots

- Identification of available data
- Testing modelling tools for spatial analysis
- Developing methods for socio-economic assessment
- Focusing on small area (community, street, island), or whole local authority area
- Identifying partners & consultants
- Working across local authorities

12 First Round LHEES pilots

Sept 2017 – Mar 2019





Themes emerging





Resource

- Pilots did encourage cross-department working
- Helped to **align different council agendas and programmes**

“It was in nobody’s work plan to do this. This was a thing that we said, could you, we’ve got money for a pilot, could you please try and input into this.”

(local authority officer)

- Pilots were useful for identifying the information and expertise required
 - **Multiple skills sets needed:**

“Whoever’s going to be charged with delivering an LHEES...needs to understand about energy efficiency measures, heat decarbonisation measures, district heating...different building types”

(external consultant)



Resource

Local authorities have limited capacity for data analysis

There is a **lack of data for non-domestic buildings:**

“There was one statistic that just absolutely stuck out to me...in the meeting with [the consultant] and there was a pie chart...and it was ninety-three percent unknown fuel type...non-domestic and to me that screamed out...that is the extent of lack of information. Yes, [the consultant] looked for information, we tried to give them anything we had”

(local authority officer)

“For the non-domestic sector there’s just not enough data to do anything robust or sensible. So whilst we’ve developed the tools and methodologies we’ve not actually then been able to really use them and deploy them.”

(external consultant)



Partnerships & consultancy

Challenges of aligning expectations from the start

- Need clear, mutually agreed contract for future LHEES
- Local authorities should be primary clients for contractors

“Technically we are clients but we’re not clients because they take their instruction from Scottish Government and that became a conflict in terms of the day-to-day stuff or individual councils may be different...but because they were given an overarching brief...it became very generic because their brief was so generic because it was the same for all of us”

(local authority officer)





Partnerships & consultancy

A **'one size fits all'** approach is not the right approach for LHEES

- Local knowledge needs to be incorporated into the LHEES development process
- Local authorities would like external consultants to spend time on-site

“Some of the findings which were based on good science and statistics....when we got the result it was no surprise to us because in a lot of ways local knowledge told us that or what was suggested we'd already done”
(local authority officer)





Local authority structures and political will

Local authorities want to show political leadership

The majority of councils **had not engaged with elected members and senior management:**

- Not confident engaging with more senior colleagues as there would be questions that they would be unable to answer
- Did not expect councillors would be particularly interested in a pilot strategy
- Not a statutory duty and therefore not a priority.

“The council won't support it. The post I've got disappears at the end of the month or the sustainability post disappears at the end of the month.”

(local authority officer)



Next steps

Several barriers to developing an implementation plan:

- Not sufficient detail in the LHEES reports
- Difficult to find sufficient resource to perform this task
- Political sensitivities about an area-based approach
- Lack of certainty over future funding, and unlikely to become self-financing

"The only way it can become self-financing is if the savings to the local authority are sufficient to fund that position. Now given that the local authorities don't actually own the council housing in the vast majority of cases...the only way they can save money is by reducing the bills in the buildings that they occupy and they pay for, it's really hard to see how that is going to be sufficient to fund...an LHEES officer?" (external consultant)



Next steps

All of the local authority officers and external consultants interviewed supported LHEES becoming a statutory duty.

The development of a statutory duty would need to be coupled with:

- More detail and guidance on exactly what was expected
- Support in establishing chains of accountability
- Support in engaging senior management and councillors
- Sufficient resource to deliver in-depth and useful strategy. This might take the shape of: one or two full time officers; resource should be in-house with the local authority; support for development of necessary skills.



Key Lessons

- Need clarity on the future of LHEES
- Need a shared framings
- LHEES needs to be integrated with existing local authority strategies and planning activities.
- All required data need to be made available to local authorities
- Geographical and urban/ rural specificities need to be acknowledged
- Maintain the roles of Home Energy Scotland and Zero Waste Scotland
- Any possible statutory duty to needs to incorporate both the *development* and *implementation* of an LHEES, and the resource to deliver this.