

# Equality Impact Assessment Template

Please complete this template using the [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance document](#)

**Version 3: January 2013**

Title of proposal <i>(include forward plan reference if available)</i>	West Bromwich Heat Network – Progress and Next Steps
Directorate and Service Area	Regeneration and Growth - Housing & Partnerships
Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA	Mark Taylor– Strategic Energy Manager
Contact Details	Tel: 0121 569 5349 Email: <a href="mailto:mark_taylor@sandwel.gov.uk">mark_taylor@sandwel.gov.uk</a>
Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA	Mark Taylor
Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed	None
Date EIA completed	29/11/2024
Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director	3/12/24
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA	Alan Lunt
Date EIA considered by Cabinet Member	TBA

**See [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance](#) for key prompts that must be addressed for all questions**

**1. The purpose of the proposal or decision required  
(Please provide as much information as possible)**

That Cabinet.

- 1.1 Note that the Council has formally entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero in relation to Green Heat Network (GHN) grant funding totalling £4,939,421 and in relation to the West Bromwich Heat Network project (the “Project”).
- 1.2 Delegate authority to the Executive Director, Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Place and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Infrastructure to make all necessary decisions in relation to the use and disbursement of the grant funding described in paragraph 1.1 above.
- 1.3 Delegate authority to the Executive Director Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Infrastructure, to:
- 1.3.1 Assess, determine, and seek approval to the appropriate delivery model (with appropriate delivery and/or investment partners should opportunities arise) to deliver the Project.
  - 1.3.2 Undertake and approve the procurement of all goods, works and services required to deliver the Project, including without limitation the commissioning of suitably qualified and experienced external consultants to deliver the Commercialisation stage of the Project.
  - 1.3.3 Accept tenders, award, and enter contracts to successful tenderers following successful procurement exercise(s) described in paragraph 1.3.2 above.
  - 1.3.4 Enter into any arrangements and/or agreements as may be necessary to give effect to the proposals in this report.
  - 1.3.5 Establish and resource appropriate governance arrangements, including without limitation a project management team within the Council, to be funded from grant resources.
  - 1.3.6 Approve all necessary operation decisions associated with delivering the Project, including without limitation signing of agreements in relation to the connection of relevant Council buildings, including high-rise blocks, to a heat network (subject to consultation and feasibility) and signing of heat connection agreements with customers.
- 1.4 Require further reports be brought for approval in relation to the

selected Business Model and implementation plan.

## **2. Evidence used/considered**

The findings of this report are a culmination of preceding Master Planning, Feasibility and Detailed Project Development stages, resulting in an Outline Business Case based around the Government's 5 case model.

## **3. Consultation**

Previous stages, particularly Detailed Project Development, have included consultation with all major potential stakeholders, including Cabinet Members. The report has been circulated for consultation to relevant Council officers and Cabinet Members.

## **4. Assess likely impact**

*Please give an outline of the overall impact if possible.*

The Council has a strategy for dealing with Climate Change, which remains one of the most significant challenges facing the Borough of Sandwell and the Black Country as a region.

Should completion of Detailed Project Development result in one or more significant heat networks being constructed, the impacts on areas of the borough concerned could be:

- Helping to address the West Midlands's Combined Authority Climate Change target of net zero carbon by 2041 and the Council's target (for its own estate and operations) of 2030.
- Reducing the number of people in fuel poverty by the availability of cheaper heat than by conventional arrangements e.g. gas electricity
- Job creation, both during construction and to a lesser extent afterwards during operation and maintenance
- Contributing towards the Inclusive Economy by recycling waste within the borough and turning it into heat/power (current arrangements with

SERCO will limit the opportunity to do this)

- One or more major heat networks will help to put Sandwell on the map and demonstrate a real commitment to sustainable energy

**Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics**

**4a. Use the table to show:**

- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality strands (protected characteristics), that is it could disadvantage them or if there is no impact, please note the evidence and/or reasons for this.
- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality, equal opportunities or improving relationships within equality characteristics.

Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Reason and evidence (Provide details of specific groups affected even for no impact and where negative impact has been identified what mitigating actions can we take?)
	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Age</b>			✓	The objectives of heat networks have no age-related impacts.
<b>Disability</b>			✓	The objectives of heat networks have no impacts relating to disability.

<b>Gender reassignment</b>			✓	The objectives of heat networks have no impacts relating to gender reassignment.
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>			✓	The objectives of heat networks have no impacts relating to marriage and civil partnership.
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>			✓	The objectives of heat networks have no impacts relating to pregnancy and maternity.
<b>Race</b>			✓	The objectives of heat networks have no impacts relating to race.
<b>Religion or beliefs</b>			✓	The objectives of heat networks have no impacts relating to religion or beliefs.

<b>Sex</b>			✓	The objectives of heat networks have no impacts relating to sex.
<b>Sexual orientation</b>			✓	The objectives of heat networks have no impacts relating to sexual orientation.
<b>Other</b>				

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? **No**

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.



<b>5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?</b>
N/A
<b>6. As a result of the EIA what decision or actions are being proposed in relation to the original proposals?</b>
N/A
<b>7. Monitoring arrangements</b>
<p>A Project Board will oversee the project, make strategic decisions and provide direction. Day-to-day management is currently carried out by the Council's Strategic Energy Manager. Appropriate resource, governance and project management arrangements will need to be established within the Council.</p>
<b>8. Action planning</b>
You may wish to use the action plan template below

Question no. (ref)	Action required	Lead officer/ person responsible	Target date	Progress

## **9. Publish the EIA**

Details of the EIA assessment will be published as part of the Cabinet report via CMS

## **Where can I get additional information, advice and guidance?**

In the first instance, please consult the accompanying guide “Equality Impact Assessment Guidance”

### **Practical advice, guidance and support**

Help and advice on undertaking an EIA, using the electronic EIA toolkit or receiving training related to equalities legislation and EIAs is available to **all managers** across the council from officers within Improvement and Efficiency. The officers within in Improvement and Efficiency will also provide overview quality assurance checks on completed EIA documents.

#### **Please contact:**

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