



# City of Edinburgh Council

## Record of Equality and Rights Impact Assessment

### Part 1: Background and Information

#### (a) Background Details

Please list ERIA background details:

#### ERIA Title and Summary Description: Housing Investment to Support Health and Social Care Priorities in Eight Blocks in Edinburgh

The purpose of this report is to respond to a request from Health, Social Care and Housing Committee on 18 April 2017 to provide a report on heating upgrades in eight blocks. The report outlines how investment will be eight multi storey blocks in to provide new smart stratagem heating systems. Consideration will be given in the future to switching the heating in the locks to wider district heating networks as they develop.

Service Area	Division	Head of Service	Service Area Reference No.
Place	Housing & Regulatory Services	Paul Lawrence, Executive Director	2017P86

#### (b) What is being impact assessed?

Describe the different policies or services (i.e. decisions, projects, programmes, policies, services, reviews, plans, functions or practices that relate to the Corporate ERIA Title):

Policies and Services	Date ERIA commenced
Heating upgrades in eight Multi Storey blocks	November 2016

#### (c) ERIA Team

Please list all ERIA Team Members:

Name	Organisation / Service Area
1. Douglas Alexander	CEC/Place/Housing & Regulatory Services/Strategy
2. Nick Cairns	CEC/ Housing Development Officer
3. Lisa Mallon	CEC/Place/Housing & Regulatory Services/Strategy

## Part 2: Evidence and Impact Assessment

### (a) Evidence Base

Please record the evidence used to support the ERIA. Any identified evidence gaps can be recorded at [part 3a](#). Please allocate an abbreviation for each piece of evidence.

Evidence	Abbreviation
1. Scottish Housing Condition Survey	SHCS
2. Tenants' Survey	TS
3. Rent Consultation 16/17	RC
4. HRA Budget Strategy 17/18	HRA
5. City Housing Strategy 2012-17	CHS

### (b) Rights Impact Assessment – Summary

Please describe all the identified enhancements and infringements of rights against the following ten areas of rights. Please also consider issues of poverty and health inequality within each area of rights:

- ✓ Life
- ✓ Health
- Physical security
- Legal security
- Education and learning
- ✓ Standard of living
- Productive and valued activities
- Individual, family and social life
- Identity, expression and respect
- Participation, influence and voice

Please indicate alongside each identified enhancement or infringement the relevant policy or service (see [part 1b](#)) and relevant evidence (see [part 2a](#)).

#### Summary of Enhancements of Rights

Enhances rights to:

- Life
- Health
- Standard of Living

The Housing Service intends to invest to upgrade the heating systems in eight mutli storey blocks to help reduce tenants' energy costs.

Almost a third of social renters in Edinburgh are in fuel poverty and tenants highlighted the cost of energy as important issue and worry for them (SHQS/ TS). Reducing the cost of living for tenants and reducing fuel poverty is a priority for the City Housing strategy (CHS). Tenants indicated that they would support investment in the energy efficiency of homes in order to support them reduce their energy costs (RC).The accelerated investment in council homes was identified as a tool to 'invest to save' tenants money and improve living standards (CHS/ HRA).

**Summary of Infringement of Rights**

Can these infringements be justified? Are they proportional?

There are no infringements - tenants will have the option to refuse new heaters as they wish.

**(c) Equality Impact Assessment – Summary**

Please consider all the protected characteristics when answering questions 1, 2 and 3 below. Please also consider the issues of poverty and health inequality within each protected characteristic:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender identity
- Marriage / civil partnership
- Pregnancy / maternity
- Race
- Religion / belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

1. Please describe all the positive and negative impacts on the duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation. Please indicate alongside each identified impact the relevant policy or service (see [part 1b](#)) and relevant evidence (see [part 2a](#)).

**Positive Impacts**

All tenants in the eight blocks would benefit from heating upgrades, particularly those that spend long periods at homes such as tenants with disabilities/ health problems, older tenants, children and those in the pregnancy/ maternity protected characteristic, and anyone at risk of being in fuel poverty.

**Negative Impacts**

None

2. Please describe all the positive and negative impacts on the duty to advance equality of opportunity (i.e. by removing or minimising disadvantage, meeting the needs of particular groups that are different from the needs of others and encouraging participation in public life)? Please indicate alongside each identified impact the relevant policy or service (see [part 1b](#)) and relevant evidence (see [part 2a](#)).

**Positive Impacts**

The upgrades aim to remove disadvantage by providing new heating systems to make sure homes are warmer, easier to heat and more comfortable for tenants. Tackling cold homes can improve school attendance and physical and mental health (HES).

**Negative Impacts**

None

3. Please describe all the positive and negative impacts on the duty to foster good relations (i.e. by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding)? Please indicate alongside each identified impact the relevant policy or service (see [part 1b](#)) and relevant evidence (see [part 2a](#)).

**Positive Impacts**

The service should ensure that tenants have warmer homes, helping them to save money, be healthier and increase happiness.

**Negative Impacts**

None

**Part 3: Evidence Gaps, Recommendations, Justifications and Sign Off**

**(a) Evidence Gaps**

Please list all relevant evidence gaps and action to address identified gaps.

Evidence Gaps	Action to address gaps
NA	

**(b) Recommendations**

Please record SMART recommendations to

- (i) eliminate unlawful practice or infringements of absolute rights;
- (ii) justify identified infringements of rights; or
- (iii) mitigate identified negative equality impacts.

Recommendation	Responsibility of (name)	Timescale
Monitor success through tenant engagement	Douglas Alexander	6 months post completion

**(c) Sign Off**

I, the undersigned, am content that:

- (i) the ERIA record represents a thorough and proportionate ERIA analysis based on a sound evidence base;
- (ii) the ERIA analysis gives no indication of unlawful practice or violation of absolute rights;
- (iii) the ERIA recommendations are proportionate and will be delivered;
- (iv) the results of the ERIA process have informed officer or member decision making;
- (v) that the record of ERIA has been published on the Council's website / intranet, or
- (vi) that the ERIA record has been reviewed and re-published.

Date	Sign Off (print name and position)	Reason for Sign Off (please indicate which reason/s from list (i) to (vi) above)
27 March 2017	Lisa Mallon, Enabling and Partnerships Manager	I-IV
29/3/17	Paul Lawrence, Executive Director of Place (gillian.johnston@edinburgh.gov.uk)	i-iii