

Screening Workshop Report

Clyde Mission – Heat Decarbonisation Fund

This Screening Workshop Report is part of a series of pilot reports prepared following the completion of a Capital Investment Health Impact Assessment (CHIA) screening workshop.

The CHIA, developed by Glasgow City Region and Public Health Scotland, through the Health Foundation's Economies for Healthier Lives programme, is a toolkit to be used in the development and delivery of capital infrastructure projects that ensures that decisions made at every level – from design, to build and operate – focus on reducing health inequalities.

1 Background Information

Clyde Mission is a national development priority with the objective of “*making the Clyde an engine of sustainable and inclusive growth for the city, the Region, and for Scotland*”.

In August 2023, the Scottish Government transferred lead responsibility for Clyde Mission to Glasgow City Region (GCR) and Argyll and Bute Council.

The Clyde Mission Heat Decarbonisation Fund (CMHDF) recognises the urgent need to decarbonise heat to help achieve Scotland's ambitious target of reaching net zero emissions by 2040. The CMHDF is administered by GCR and funded by the Scottish Government.

The CMHDF offers grants towards capital expenses, and in some cases expenses which can be ‘capitalised’ to public and private sector organisations to develop heat decarbonisation projects.

The fund aims to:

- Help to provide capital funding for high impact heat decarbonisation projects in Glasgow City Region.
- Provide necessary funding to support district heat decarbonisation projects in both the public and private sectors, ensuring economic viability for installation and operational phases.
- Support with targeted additional funding.

This is a targeted funding programme for projects within the Clyde Mission corridor, building on the Clyde Mission Energy Masterplan and aligned with local, regional and national policy context.

Eligible organisations or sectors include:

- Local Authorities
- Other Public Sector Organisations (e.g., NHS, Education, Registered Social Landlords etc.)
- Incorporated legal registered private sector entities (e.g. and other similar projects, Community Interest Companies etc.).

2 Workshop Summary

This is a report of a workshop held on Monday 11 August to discuss the potential impacts on health and equity of the proposed CMHDF.

Participants included: Scottish Government Heat Network Support Unit, Scottish Government Capital Planning and NHS Facilities, Glasgow City Council Equalities, Glasgow City Council Communities, Glasgow City Region Place and HDF leads, Health and Economy Lead for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Glasgow City Region PMO.

Participants used a health and equity impact checklist in a facilitated discussion to identify how the CMHDF was likely to affect different populations and health determinants.

This report details **potential** impacts identified by workshop participants. Further evidence is needed to investigate these potential impacts identified and/or discussed in the workshop. The report includes:

- A summary of key points raised during the workshop by stakeholders.
- A detailed workshop discussion.
- Suggestions made during the discussion to enhance outputs and outcomes and minimise any impacts.
- Research questions to explore and understand impacts and outcomes.
- Approaches to how impacts and outputs and outcomes will be potentially addressed.

3 Summary of Key Points

The group raised the following:

- Cost of clean energy generated and potentially supplied – for both domestic and non-domestic properties – may be a negative impact, particularly to people experiencing poverty.
- Opportunities for jobs and education opportunities throughout the development and delivery of successful projects funded through CMHDF, this will be particularly beneficial in areas of higher multiple deprivation.
- Differences in distribution of opportunities between Urban and Rural areas, with urban being potentially most likely to benefit from projects given their higher population density and therefore easier alignment with district heating networks for example.
- Vulnerable population groups potentially most at risk from poorer housing conditions, including costly or inefficient energy supply.
- The very young and very old are likely to be most vulnerable to poor housing conditions, particularly in relation to warmer homes and affordable, clean heat.
- The funding programme and successful projects are likely to have a positive impact on quality of place and supporting the achievement of Scotland's emissions reduction targets.
- The programme may have a positive impact on community wealth building and enhancement of local capacity and assets if its criteria includes a place-based approach to delivering community health and wellbeing.
- There is a potential positive impact in relations between different population groups as a result of investment in the local community. Improved sense of pride and potentially belonging if there is appropriate community involvement in decision making.
- Potential positive impact in reducing stress or uncertainty with this fund, as well as increased resilience, if the clean heat generated leads to affordable energy for communities also.
- Potential to address and reduce stigma perceived or experienced by some groups (older groups, students, potentially ethnic minority groups) with a culture of not wanting to ask for help, particularly if equitable distribution of projects and affordable cost of energy is supported by the fund in conjunction with other mechanisms.
- This project may potentially (indirectly) support warm hubs and warm comfortable spaces across the City Region, which will have a positive impact on community connectedness and cohesion.

The group discussed the uncertainty of impacts at this early stage, since the location and scope of projects to be funded by the CMHDF are not yet known. It may be useful for each of the successful projects to undertake a CHIA exercise of their own to explore key local impacts of their proposals in more detail.

4 Suggested Actions

In the discussion, the group suggested some actions to enhance the impacts of CMHDF. These are summarised below:

- Take a place based approach to the allocation of grant funds to ensure, as much as possible, equitable distribution of clean heat generation across urban and rural areas within the Clyde Mission area.
- Consider the cost of clean heat and potential support for both businesses and individuals, making the transition to clean heat affordable and therefore, potentially, more sustainable and viable.
- Encourage individual project engagement with local schools and businesses, to support skills development and apprenticeship opportunities in clean heat sectors – potentially via community benefits criteria already included in CMHDF.
- Encourage and support engagement and collaboration with local businesses and community organisations to localise supply chains and enhance local community assets.
- Encourage HDF funded projects to identify and address key health and equity impacts of their proposals to inform business case development.

5 Research Questions

The group identified several questions about the impacts and some of the uncertainty around them. These are listed below:

1. What is the proportion of rural communities within the Clyde Mission Area? Where are they? How/To what extent can CMHDF ensure equitable distribution/access to clean heat supply/generation across Clyde Mission area?
2. To what extent will CMHDF grant facilitate education and employment during the construction and operation of individual projects, and for which populations? What is the expected impact of this on job quality and socio-economic status for those populations? What are the health outcomes associated with improved socio-economic status?
3. Where are the deprived areas in the Clyde Mission area that currently have the highest incidence of fuel poverty? How many priority households in the Clyde Mission area would benefit? What proportion/number of people or businesses will have opportunity to access clean and affordable heat? To what extent will this alleviate fuel poverty across the Clyde Mission area?
4. What opportunities exist for CMHDF to improve access to, and quality of, public realm and greenspace in local communities around successful HDF projects? How do these translate to a positive impact on health outcomes?

6 Detailed Discussion

The group identified that HDF was most likely to affect the following groups of people:

6.1 Impacts by Population Group

The group discussed the populations on the checklist as follows:

Children and Young People

- Potentially more vulnerable to poorer housing conditions, including cold homes.

Working Age Population

- Particularly those employed in intensive/ high emissions sectors:
 - Potential negative impact in relation to job losses in longer term.
 - Potential opportunities for reskilling or retraining, accessing new job opportunities created by projects funded by CMHDF.

Older People

- Potentially more vulnerable to colder homes and at higher risk of fuel poverty – therefore more likely to benefit from enhanced access to clean and affordable heat but conversely be worse impacted by any increased costs of clean heat/energy.
- Potential negative impacts during construction phase - air pollution and noise pollution.

Women and Men

- No differential impacts identified.

Disabled People

- Potentially more vulnerable to colder homes and most likely to experience economic disadvantage or poverty.
- Those with visual impairment may be particularly impacted during construction phase by any hazards/additional traffic.

Minority Ethnic Populations

- Potentially most vulnerable to poverty, including fuel poverty.
- Potentially experiencing stigma and less likely to want to ask for help.
- Potential risks for those whose English is not a first language, need for additional signposting and engagement in relevant languages/culturally appropriate ways.

People in Receipt of Low Income

- Potentially more vulnerable to increased energy/heat costs.

Homeless People

- Potentially more vulnerable to increased energy costs.

People involved in the Criminal Justice System

- No differential impacts.

People with Low Literacy and Numeracy

- No differential impacts.

People in Remote, Rural or Island Locations

- Potentially less likely to be able to access clean heat opportunities than communities in urban areas due to lower population density.

Carers

- Potentially most vulnerable to suffer from mental and physical strain of looking after potentially vulnerable groups affected by colder homes or increased cost of heating.

Staff

- Clyde Mission staff and local authority staff potentially having to address competing priorities of heat decarbonisation/ supporting affordable warmth and addressing fuel poverty.

6.2 Health Determinants

The group then discussed the health determinants on the checklist as follows:

Economic Environment

- Potential access to construction jobs for working age population and opportunities for skills development and education opportunities for young people.
- Potential opportunity to consider real living wage accredited companies.
- Some uncertainty around impacts since successful bidders are not known yet.
- Opportunities to support local supply chain development and enabling development of local assets, supporting local businesses.
- Uncertainty around the cost-of-living impact of any renewable/ clean heat generated - who will it be supplied to? Who will benefit? Who will profit? Potential for programme to consider these issues when appraising potential projects.

Place and Physical Environment

- Potential positive impacts on greenhouse emissions reduction from heat decarbonisation.
- Potential positive impact on climate resilience and adaptation from strengthening resilience of local heat generation systems.
- Potential positive impact from investment in place, potential for improved local green space and open space.
- Potential (temporary) negative impacts of noise and air pollution during construction phase.

Access to and Quality of Services

- Potential opportunities for the two health boards to apply for funding to develop clean heat projects.
- Potential positive impacts for health and social care partnerships initiatives around accessing clean (and possibly affordable) heat for community warm hubs.

Equalities/Public Sector Equality Duty

- Potential opportunity to improve community resilience and promoting good relations between groups, resulting from increased investment in any given area or place. Provided that a place-based approach is adopted to selecting and delivering heat decarbonisation projects funded by CMHDF.

Commercial and Environmental Influences on Physical and Mental Health

- Potential negative impact on sleep during construction phase for the projects, depending on their nature and proposed location.
- Importance of effective links to public transport infrastructure and potential uses of the renewable heat being generated/distributed.

7 Workshop Participants

- Alan Speirs, Glasgow City Council
- Amy Tickell, The Scottish Government
- Kasia Smith, Glasgow City Region
- Philip Maclean, The Scottish Government/NHS
- Rory O'Sullivan, Glasgow City Council
- Ross Nimmo, Glasgow City Region
- Sonia Milne, Glasgow City Region
- Zofia MacFarlane, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde