**This was originally and email.**

Good afternoon,

After review by the Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) LHEES/LAEP Board, the Board is largely in support of the Strategy and Guiding principles adopting a place-based, whole energy system approach and would welcome further detail and opportunity to shape on how this approach will align with regional and local priorities, evidence, opportunities, and challenges. For the Board this also aligns with:

• PKC Climate Action Plan

• PKC Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategies and Local Area Energy Plans

• Heat Network Zoning.

• National Planning Framework 4

• Local Development Plan

• Other key strategies: Local Economic Strategy, Local Transport Strategy, Local Housing Strategy, etc.

Unfortunately, the Board does not currently have capacity to provide an individual response on behalf of the Council but are highly supportive of responses shared with Council from Heads of Planning (HOPS) and Fife Council. The Board has also fed into and support the response from the Local Energy Policy and Infrastructure group.

We would add the following to the above responses:

Q8. The Board agrees with the approach to ensure the RESP is credible however, given the current lack of an overarching data infrastructure or digital spine there is the potential that collating and assessing credibility of many datasets will take a long time and have significant resource and capacity requirements. Welcome the role of DNO platforms, such as the Local Energy Net Zero Accelerator (LENZA) in facilitating a data driven process underlining the importance of shared evidence and tools to support ‘live delivery plans’ which inform shared planning and a move towards an agile planning platform as conditions change over time. We support the role of LENZA in facilitating 2 way information flows and alignment with Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESP) to shape a shared long-term vision, alongside a series of pathways and identification of system need. RESP pathways based on modelling of bottom-up inputs such as local decarbonisation pathways modelling, LAEPs, network data, heat data, and transport would be facilitated and made more efficient though adoption of this platform across areas, such an approach would also address the current lack of an appropriate digital infrastructure for strategic energy planning.

We would also flag the need to align evidence to existing data and policy boundaries in Scotland, either at the datazone or primary substation area zone level

General: There could be more coverage of the legislative position on the localisation of energy production in the UK and also the involvement of LAs in the RESPs, addressing issues around resourcing.

In addition, the identification of Scotland as a single region will be a challenge due the large and geographically diverse area with one plan and would welcome clarification of how the process will address this. Agree with the HOPs position which advocates for, at a minimum, two regions for Scotland, rather than one, that fit with existing DNO areas, resulting in more successful planning outcomes due to the close working relationships that already existing between the DNO, local authorities and other stakeholders. This is particularly important when aligning our Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) and Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) delivery actions and area with the wider energy system and strategic planning and investment in the network. Also agree this is an area where the inclusion of local authority input will be most effective.

We would clarify this is an officer led response.