



## Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

- 1) Ryedale District Council, Hambleton District Council, Richmondshire District Council, Scarborough District Council. ("the Councils")
- 2) Date of publication 23 April 2018
- 3) Version number 1
- 4) Publication on website: 23 April 2018

### 1) Introduction

This joint Statement of Intent (SOI) sets out how "the Councils" will work closely with energy companies, funders, installers and customers to maximise the input of Flexible Eligibility ECO on fuel poor households.

Local authorities can set their own criteria for eligibility for funding for domestic energy efficiency measures. This funding is aimed at those within a local authority most likely to be in fuel poverty. Energy companies can spend up to a maximum of 10% of their full Affordable Warmth obligation within these criteria.

The approach adopted is based on the following principles.

- Eligibility criteria are to be as streamlined, and simple, as possible
- Early engagement with energy suppliers
- Early engagement with local Members and Partners
- Promote the scheme throughout the districts
- Eligibility for funding due to individual circumstances (based on criteria developed and refined already for existing Council led energy efficiency programme).

Meeting the flexible eligibility criteria does not guarantee the installation of measures.

The final decision will depend upon:

- the survey carried out by installers/contractors and installation costs calculated
- the energy savings that can be achieved for a property
- whether suppliers have achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their ECO targets

Flexible Eligibility ECO fits with the council's overall aim to reduce carbon emissions and address fuel poverty, specifically:

- York, North Yorkshire and East Riding of York's Housing Strategy 2015 -21 Council's has 9 Housing Priorities that have developed to meet the housing challenges within North Yorkshire, specifically Priority 7 and the Councils own strategic aims to reduce carbon emissions, tackling fuel poverty, and delivering efficient and secure energy.

### 2) How the LA intends to identify eligible households

Households will be considered at risk of fuel poverty if they are determined to be a low income household and living in a high cost home in relation to energy use (Low Income High Cost - LIHC) and/or have a pre-existing condition making them vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home (Low Income Vulnerable to Cold) - LIVC).

Households need to meet Stage 1 (Low Income) criteria and one of the Stage 2



(High Cost) criteria – these are based on the March 2015 Government Fuel Poverty Strategy and the NICE guidance NG6 on “Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes”.

Stage	Eligibility Criteria
1) Low Income	Gross household income of <£21,000 Income Related benefits
and	
2a) High Cost (energy use)	Property EPC* rating of E, F or G
2b) High Cost (energy use)	Property EPC rating of D; and living in a hard to treat home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Property has solid walls, non-standard cavity walls or system built walls, or,</li> <li>- Property is off the gas network</li> </ul>
2c) High Cost and Health Condition made Worse by Cold	Property EPC rating of D; and a health condition made worse by cold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chronic respiratory condition,</li> <li>- Cardiovascular condition,</li> <li>- Musculoskeletal illness,</li> <li>- Mental health condition.</li> </ul>
2d) High Cost and Vulnerable to Cold	Property EPC rating of D; and vulnerable due to age or circumstance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- over age 70</li> <li>- pregnant women</li> <li>- children under 5</li> </ul>

***Any details of scheme requirements for SWI "in-fill" project***

At this stage “The Councils” will not be actively searching for in fill properties but will declare eligible properties if approached by a resident or ECO provider. This is due to an expectation that the grants provided through ECO will be insufficient to enable fuel poor households to afford solid wall insulation.

Where a property doesn't meet the criteria they can be declared "in-fill" if they are:

- A. In the same terrace as; or
- B. In an immediately adjacent building to; or
- C. Are in the same building as a household that does meet the LIHC or LIRC criteria

There are also minimum percentages of household that must apply:

Property Type	Declaration requirements
Semi-detached or a building containing no more than two domestic properties	At least 1 of the 2 (50%) properties must have been declared as fuel poor (LIHC or LIRC)



	and therefore be eligible for ECO
Any premises that are contained in the same building (e.g. flats), immediately adjacent buildings (e.g. neighbouring properties) or in the same terrace	At least 2 of the 3 (66%) properties must have been declared as fuel poor (LIHC or LIVC) and therefore eligible for ECO

#### 4) Governance

The Councils will work with project partners to identify households that meet the flexible eligibility criteria. Partners will engage with residents and collect the required evidence to demonstrate eligibility. They will also liaise with ECO obligated Energy Companies and prepare the declaration forms on behalf of Councils.

The Officer responsible for signing valid "local authority declarations" as determined through delegated Authority are as follows:

Ryedale District Council	Senior Specialist (People)
Hambleton District Council -	Head of Service, Leisure and Environment
Richmondshire District Council	Improvement and Adaptions Advisor
Scarborough District Council	HIA Manager

#### 5) Referrals

The scheme will receive referrals for flexibly eligibility in the following ways:

1. self-referrals from residents
2. from other Council teams or partner organisations
3. Warm & Well in North Yorkshire
4. referrals from ECO providers or installers
5. from front line staff within the health and social care sectors and trusted partner agencies

#### 5) Evidence, monitoring and reporting

The data collected from residents will be sufficient to confirm their eligibility. This will include:

- Name, address and telephone number
- Proof of income
- EPC or alternative agreed assessment

#### Evidencing Vulnerability

- Over 70 living at the property (birth certificate, passport or driving licence)
- Pregnant women (Mat B1 letter)
- Child under 5 (birth certificate)
- Health condition exacerbated by cold proved by:
  - letter from GP
  - letter from hospital
  - invitation for free flu jab for health reasons



- o referral from a medical professional

Each applicant will be asked how they had been made aware of the scheme which will enable us to monitor the different targeting pathways/promotion methods.

Records will be kept of all household targeted, referred, and who receive a measure.

To reduce the risk of fraud checks will be made on eligibility.

Auditing of claimant's will be assessed by a random sample of households on a post installation basis.

Quarterly project meetings will be held with the project partners to monitor progress.

## 7) Signatures

### Ryedale District Council

**Name: Clare Slater**

**Position: Interim Chief Executive**

### Hambleton District Council

**Name: Dr. Justin Ives**

**Position: Chief Executive**

### Richmondshire District Council

**Name: Colin Dales**

**Position: Corporate Director (Operations)**

### Scarborough Borough Council

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**Name: David Kitson**

**Position: Solicitor, Regulatory & Governance Manager**

\*Energy Performance Certificate