

# Energy Company Obligation (ECO): Help to Heat

## Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Hertsmere Borough Council 01/03/18 VERSION 2

### 1) Introduction

The countywide Hertfordshire Warmer Homes scheme supports local households in or near fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold to receive energy efficiency interventions that improve health and wellbeing outcomes and the fuel efficiency of their homes. The scheme will be used to deliver Local Authority Flexibility. Hertsmere Borough Council is working in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council and all of the other district and borough Councils in Hertfordshire to provide the scheme.

As set out in the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) (Amendment) Order 2017 (Art 16 (A) 3(a)) this Energy Company Obligation (ECO): Help to Heat Local Authority Flexible Eligibility ('ECO flex') criteria is only applicable and relevant to private tenure households (i.e. Private rented sector and owner occupier sector). Social housing is excluded from flexible eligibility.

The Hertfordshire Warmer Homes scheme contributes towards the following Local Authority priorities:

#### Hertsmere Borough Council

This will contribute to Hertsmere Borough Council's 2020 vision:

- Supporting our communities: *Support our residents to be healthier and live longer. Provide opportunities to enable all the people of Hertsmere to lead fulfilling lives.*
- Being an enterprising council: Explore innovative ways to deliver services, particularly through collaborative working.

It will help Hertsmere Borough Council to implement measures outlined in its Home Energy Conservation Act Further Report May 2013;

- Minimum standards in the private rental sector, *work with landlords to improve the energy efficiency of their properties and facilitate ECO funding to tackle hard to treat properties by engaging key community groups and organisations*

#### Hertfordshire County Council

This will contribute to the Hertfordshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2016-19 as well as the following Hertfordshire County Council's Corporate Plan priorities:

- Opportunity to Thrive: *A cleaner, greener county with children and adults given the support they need*
- Opportunity to be Healthy & Safe: *Healthier lifestyles, tailored social care and less crime*

It will contribute towards the following Public Health Strategy 2017 -21 priorities:

- Starting and developing well, *healthier lives for 0-25 years*
- Keeping Well, *supporting longer lives, more disease-free years and self-management of long-term conditions*
- Working to reduce health inequalities: Reducing inequalities in health outcomes and life expectancy between most and least affluent

Hertsmere Borough Council wishes to utilise ECO Flex to its fullest to help Hertfordshire Warmer Homes achieve its aims and reach a wide number of residents.

It should be noted that the final decision on whether any individual household will benefit from energy saving improvements rests with obligated energy suppliers or their contractors. Inclusion in a Declaration of Eligibility issued by the Council to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures. The final decision will depend on:

- identification of measures eligible under Help to Heat;
- the supplier's assessment of the cost-effectiveness of installing measures in relation to achieving its obligation; and
- Whether the supplier has achieved their targets or requires further measures to meet their Energy Company Obligation targets.

## 2) How the Local Authority intends to identify eligible households

To be eligible the applicant must meet criteria 1 AND either criteria a) OR b) in table 1 below.

### **Criteria for identifying households living in fuel poverty OR low income and vulnerable to cold**

**Table 1:**

<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
1. Low Income	Gross household disposable income (after rent or mortgage has been paid) £20,000 or less
AND either	
a) High energy costs	Property with at least one of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100mm or less loft insulation</li> <li>• Unfilled cavity walls</li> <li>• Un-insulated non cavity walls</li> <li>• No working central heating</li> </ul> or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPC rating of D or below</li> </ul>
OR	
b) At least one of the following	Resident or household member either:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) health condition made worse by the cold</li> <li>ii) vulnerable to the cold</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) health condition made worse by the cold as defined in table 2 below or</li> <li>ii) vulnerable to the cold as defined by</li> </ul>

iii) a home owner or those on a private tenancy agreement (or member of the household) is in receipt of long term health or disability benefit	table 2 below iii) the following eligible benefits: Carer's Allowance A Disability Benefit (incl. Attendance Allowance, Disabled Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment)
--	--

**Table 2 Eligible health conditions and those vulnerable to the cold**

<b>a) Health conditions made worse by the cold</b>	<b>b) Vulnerable to the cold</b>
i. people with cardiovascular conditions	i. Aged over 65, particularly those over 75
ii. people with respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)	ii. Children under 5 or pregnant women
iii. people with mental health conditions	iii. People with substance addictions
iv. people with disabilities	iv. People who have attended hospital due to a fall in the last year
v. people who are terminally ill	v. People diagnosed with dementia
vi. people with suppressed immune systems (e.g. from cancer treatment or HIV)	vi. Recent immigrants or asylum seekers
vii. Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME)	
viii. Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)	

Source: Adapted from National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Quality Statement and guidance 2015 on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold

## 5) Governance

The Hertfordshire Warmer Homes Assessor, provided by the National Energy Foundation, will receive, log and follow-up initial referrals via HertsHelp. The Assessor will check if the client is potentially eligible for ECO Flex and request relevant supporting information. Once provided the Assessor will liaise with the relevant Local Authority to obtain a signed 'Local Authority Declaration' confirming eligibility.

*Responsible officer*

The officer below will be responsible for signing declarations on behalf of the local authority.

Andy Chittenden  
Job title: Private Sector Housing Officer  
Telephone: 020 8207 2277  
Email: andy.chittenden@hertsmere.gov.uk

## 6) Referrals


We would expect referrals to be identified through the Hertfordshire Warmer Homes scheme. Those outside of this would be expected to meet Hertfordshire Warmer Homes agreed quality criteria and should contact the responsible officer for further information.

## 7) Evidence, monitoring and reporting

Hertfordshire Warmer Homes will provide the central administration and management of Energy Company Obligation flexible eligibility in Hertfordshire. The scheme reports on ECO Flex activity including SOI qualifying reason, household information and installation progress. The scheme is able report this activity on a monthly basis and is reviewed at the monthly Project Group by representatives from all partners.

## 8) Signature

**SIGNED ON BEHALF OF  
DISTRICT / BOROUGH COUNCIL  
by**

  
.....  
Signature

Donald Graham  
.....  
Name

Chief Executive  
.....  
Title