**Rotherham Metropolitan Brough Council**

**Energy Company Obligation - 4 (ECO 4)**

**Statement of Intent version 1.2: July 2022 to April 2026.**

**Publication Date: 23/01/2023**

**This Statement of Intent is solely for the use of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and does not apply to any other local authority**.

ThisStatement of intent obligation can be found on the Rotherham Council internet pages relating to Energy Efficiency and Climate Change via the following link:

[Energy and climate change – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/energy-climate-change)

**The document is marked as “ECO 4 Statement of Intent Version 1.2”**

In June 2019, the Government announced that the UK had become the first major economy in the world to pass laws regarding its net contribution to global warming by 2050. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council formally declared a [Climate Change Emergency in October 2019](https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=85837) resulting in the production of a Climate Change Action Plan covering seven themes of Energy, Housing, Transport, Waste, Built and Natural Environment, Influence and Engagement.

In March 2020, the Council adopted two net zero carbon targets:

1. Rotherham Council’s carbon emissions to be net-zero by 2030.
2. Rotherham wide carbon emissions to be net-zero by 2040.

The Council aims to ensure that all of Rotherham’s residents live in healthy, energy efficient homes. Improving the energy efficiency and reducing emissions of existing and new homes will provide an opportunity not only to reduce carbon emissions but also reduce fuel poverty and improve air quality.

This statement sets out Rotherham Metropolitan Brough Council’s flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation 4 (ECO4) scheme from April 2022 – March 2026. The ECO4 scheme will focus on supporting low income and vulnerable households and will improve the least energy efficient homes, helping to meet the Government’s fuel poverty and net zero commitments. The flexible approach for Local Authorities (LA’s) to identify fuel poor and vulnerable households who may benefit from heating and energy saving measures is referred to as “ECO4 Flex”.

The Council welcomes the introduction of the ECO4 Flex eligibility routes as it helps the Council achieve its plans to improve the homes of those in fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold.

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (SOI) to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

**Energy Company obligation 4 (ECO 4)**

**LA & Supplier Flex – 4 referral** **routes**

1. **Income based using** **£31,000 income cap Gross, & SAP bands D-G.**

This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region. Households must have a gross income of less than £31,000 and must have a valid Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D-G for owner-occupied households and E-G private rented households.

**2) Household must meet 2 proxies below and have a valid EPC at band E-G for owner-occupied or private rented households.**

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| --- |
| **Proxy 1 -** Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA)[[1]](#footnote-1), |
| **Proxy 2 -** Householders receiving a Council Tax rebate (rebates based on low income only, excludes single person rebates). |
| **Proxy 3 -** Householders vulnerable to living in a cold home as identified in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance. Only one from the list can be used, excludes the proxy ‘low income’. |
| **Proxy 4 -** A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income. |
| **Proxy 5 –** **Not yet available as a proxy** (**Will be available in late summer 2023)** |
| **Proxy 6 -** A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizen's Advice or Citizen’s Advice Scotland, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and gas bills.  **Proxy 7)** - Households identified through supplier debt data. This route enables obligated suppliers to use their own debt data to identify either Non-Pre-Payment meter households (non-PPM), or Pre-Payment meter households (PPM)\*  a) Non-PPM customers: These are customers who have been in debt for more than 13 weeks ending with the day on which the declaration is made and are in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier or repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party deductions.  b) PPM customers: Suppliers may also identify PPM households who: have either self-disconnected or received supplier Discretionary/Friendly credit within the last 13 weeks ending with the day on which the declaration is made; are in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier or are repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party deductions.  **Proxies 1 & 3 and proxies 6 & 7 cannot be used in combination with each other.** |

1. **NHS referrals.**

Households witha valid EPC bandof D-G for owner-occupied households and E-G for private rented sector households, being identified as housing a person suffering from a severe and / or long-term health condition that is adversely affected by living in a cold home. The person’s severe or long-term health condition must be due to one or more of the following:

• A cardiovascular condition

• A respiratory disease

• Limited mobility

• Immunosuppression.

These households should be identified by their GP or Doctor as low income and vulnerable

1. **LA targeting methodology.**

EPC band D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households. RMBC can submit an application to BEIS where we have identified a low income and vulnerable household, who are not already eligible under the exiting routes.

**Evidence, monitoring and reporting**

All installers working under this agreement may need to confirm eligibility of a property and/or its occupants for ECO4: FLEX. Residents will be required to complete an assessment form with a relevant qualified assessor (No household self-declarations will be allowed).

* All installers working under this agreement will report to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council on which measures have been installed and the savings attributed on a quarterly basis.
* All declarations held by installers must match the declarations sent by RMBC to Ofgem.
* Installers must retain all proof of eligibility for the selected referral route for later auditing purposes, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council may randomly audit applications on a quarterly basis to help prevent fraud.

**Applications to join the RMBC Energy Company obligation 4 list of approved installers.**

***Installers that were previously registered with RMBC for ECO 3 will have to reapply for ECO4***

All installers registered with an energy supplier and Ofgem who meet all the relevant requirements of ECO 4 where they apply, must re-apply to RMBC to participate in ECO-4 and provide the following documents to be held on record by RMBC:

* PAS 2030:2019 accreditation and Trust Mark registration.
* Gas Safe registration and NIC compliant accredited.
* F Gas accreditation in place.
* MCS accreditation and Trust Mark.
* RECC and NICEIC accredited.
* NIC compliance and evidence of Trust Mark registration.

All installers must use the new ECO 4 application forms that will be provided by RMBC, once a company is accepted to join the list of approved installers. No application will be accepted other than the forms supplied by RMBC, and the forms must be filled in correctly and clearly to avoid invalid applications.

**ECO 4 Flex Advertising:**

Organisations should only use the RMBC logo with the expressed permission of RMBC in writing. All such material must give consistent information both about ECO4 as well as clear details of the installing company which should include clear contact details both by phone and web page of the company. A fully up and running web page should always be accessible giving clear information about the scheme and the company. Any changes to both phone number and web pages should be updated on the leaflet before it is used to prevent out of date information being given to residents. Information about what is on offer should be clear and what the resident can expect from the scheme.

**No reference should be made to this being a totally free scheme but subject to survey there may be a fee, and this should not be in small print but clear bold.**

**All ECO-4 flex advertising literature used by approved installers should first be seen and approved by RMBC.**

**Any installer found to be repeatably using sales tactics that RMBC deem to be immoral/misleading can have its declarations and work through ECO-4 flex in Rotherham stopped by RMBC.**

**LA officers responsible for ECO-4**

The named officer below will be responsible for checking and verifying declarations and any associated evidence submitted on behalf of the local authority:

**Name:** James Maher

**Job Title:** Energy officer

**Telephone:** 01709 334111

**Email:** [james.maher@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:james.maher@rotherham.gov.uk)

**CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature**

**RMBC** will administer the scheme according to the BEIS ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem’s application process. The **acting AD of Housing** at the Council will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO4 Flex.

The eligibility information will be stored securely in line with the Council’s data protection policy, Information Commissioner’s Office Data Sharing Code, and BEIS guidance.

**Signature:** 

**Name:** Paul Walsh

**Job Title:** Assistant Director of Housing

**Date of signature:** **30/06/2022**

*This document may be subject to change following the publication of any relevant ECO4 FLEX guidance documents from BEIS/OFGEM. For any general enquires relating to this SOI, please contact:* [*james.maher@rotherham.gov.uk*](mailto:james.maher@rotherham.gov.uk)

1. [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835115/IoD2019_Statistical_Release.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)