## Statement of Intent for ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme

**Rotherham Metropolitan Brough Council ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent**

**Local Authority name: Rotherham Metropolitan Brough Council**

**Publication Date: 01/03/2024**

**Version number: 1.4**

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

This statement sets out **Rotherham Metropolitan Brough** Council’s flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) and Great British Insulation schemes which run until March 2026.

**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 “Statement of Intent for ECO4-FLEX and Great British Insulation Scheme version 1.3”.**

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) and the Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS). Both schemes 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 “Flex”.

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (SoI), on the **01/03/2024** to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below. The tick boxes can be used to indicate to households which routes the council is using:

**[Please use the tick boxes to indicate which routes are being used by the LA / DA]**

[x]  **Route 1:** Owner-occupiedand private rented sector households with a gross annual income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region. Properties must have a valid Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D-G for owner-occupied households and E-G private rented households.

[x]  **Route 2:** Owner-occupiedand private rented sector households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies **and have a valid EPC at band E-G for owner-occupied or private rented households**:

|  |
| --- |
| **Proxy 1)** Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA)[[1]](#footnote-2), or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019[[2]](#footnote-3), or homes in Scotland in “data zone” 1-3 on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020[[3]](#footnote-4)\* |
| **Proxy 2)** A person living at the premises is entitled to a Council Tax reduction on the grounds of low-income. |
| **Proxy 3)** A person living at the premises is considered to be vulnerable to the cold under the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance NG6: Recommendation 2, for a reason other than their low-income[[4]](#footnote-5)\* |
| **Proxy 4)** A child living at the premises is eligible for free school meals, due to low-income[[5]](#footnote-6) |
| **~~Proxy 5)~~** ~~A person living at the premises is supported by a scheme established by the LA/DA that is named and described within their Statement of Intent and established to support people living on a low-income and considered vulnerable to the cold under NICE Guideline NG6.~~**\*not currently in use**  |
| **Proxy 6)** A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizens Advice or Citizens Advice Scotland, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and/or gas bills.  |
| **Proxy 7)** **[Please note, proxy 7 is for supplier owned debt data and is listed here for information only].** Households identified through energy 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)\*. 1. **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.
2. **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; or
* are in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier; or
* repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party deductions. \*
 |

\* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

\* Proxy 7 cannot be used in combination with proxy 5 or proxy 6.

[x]  **Route 3:** Owner-occupied and private rented sector households that have been identified by either a person registered in the General Practitioner Register, a Scottish Health Board, a Welsh Health Board, an NHS Foundation Trust, or an NHS Trust as vulnerable, with an occupant whose health conditions may be adversely affected by living in a cold home. These health conditions must be cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility related. Properties must have a valid Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D-G for owner-occupied households and E-G private rented households.

**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.
* RMBC retains the right to refuse to sign any ECO4 FLEX Declaration. The submission of evidence and referral forms to the energy team is not a confirmation of a declaration being issued. ECO4- FLEX funded work should only begin on a property once an installer has received a signed declaration from the RMBC energy team.

## RMBC list of approved installers

As of March 2024. RMBC is no longer taking on new installers to have ECO4-FLEX work signed off having reached capacity in 2023.

**ECO 4 Flex Advertising:**

Organisations should only use the RMBC logo with the expressed permission of RMBC in writing. All such material must give clear and accurate information regarding ECO4-FLEX and GBIS as well as clear details of the installing company, clear contact details both by phone and web page of the company should also be made available. 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 ECO4/GBIS being a 100% funded free scheme to residents as this is not guaranteed.**

**All ECO-4 flex advertising literature used by approved installers should first be seen and approved by RMBC should it make reference to the council in any way.**

**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

**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.

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

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

1. Published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>. The deciles are published in “File 7: all ranks, deciles and scores for the indices of deprivation, and population denominators”. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Published at <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2019> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. 2020v2. Published at <http://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020v2-ranks> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6/chapter/1-Recommendations#recommendation-2-ensure-there-is-a-singlepointofcontact-health-and-housing-referral-service-for> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Under section 512ZB(4) of the Education Act 1996 or section 53 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)