

1 October 2018 - Version 1

http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/download/56/energy_and_climate_change

Energy Company Obligation Help to Heat Flexible Eligibility – Statement of Intent

Note on use:

Statutory requirements for ECO Help to Heat as set out in the ECO3 Amendment Order
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2017/9780111154175/contents>

And the guidance to local authorities issued by Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-company-obligation-eco-help-to-heat-scheme-flexible-eligibility>

Clarification on mandatory and optional elements

BEIS guidance Statement of Intent, confirming the elements that are mandatory these are also set out in article 16A of the ECO3 Amendment Order.

The mandatory elements of the Statement of Intent (Statement of Intent) are:

- Section 2 “How the local authority intends to identify eligible households”
- Section 3 “Acting on behalf of another local authority” (if relevant)
- That the Statement of Intent is signed by the Chief Executive Officer for the Local Authority or other senior officer nominated on their behalf who is at least Director level.
- That the Statement of Intent is signed and published before or at the same time as any declaration to an obligated party identifying eligible households

Under the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Help to Heat flexible eligibility, obligated energy suppliers will be able to use the ‘flexible eligibility’ mechanism for up to 10% of their ECO Affordable Warmth obligation by installing energy saving measures in premises that have been declared eligible by local authorities.

Participating local authorities must ensure these are households in private tenure living either in fuel poverty or living on a low income and who are particularly vulnerable to the effects of living in the cold. In addition, some non-fuel poor homes will be allowed for solid wall insulation projects, if a proportion of the households in the project are in fuel poverty or living in the cold

1) Introduction

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council welcomes the introduction of Flexible Eligibility (FE) and intends to utilise it for the purposes of reducing fuel poverty in the borough.

Fuel poverty and excess winter deaths in Rotherham The fuel poverty target figures released in June 2014 (for 2012) show Rotherham is at 15.1% using the 10% indicator see here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fuelpoverty-subregional-data-under-10-indicator>

Using the Low income high costs indicator Rotherham’s performance is 9.8% (England average 10.4%) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2012-sub-regional-fuel-povertydata-low-income-high-costs-indicator>

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 i) identification of measures eligible under Help to Heat ii) the supplier’s assessment of the cost-effectiveness of installing measures in relation

to achieving its obligation, and iii) whether the supplier has achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their Energy Company Obligation targets.

In identifying households as eligible under flexible eligibility Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council is seeking to enable residents to benefit from funding and will seek the consent of households to including them in a Declaration. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council expects any obligated energy supplier, or contractor working on their behalf, to comply with the Data Protection Act, to fully follow Ofgem requirements for the Energy Company Obligation Help to Heat, and to act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards of any works that may take place. These are covered in a separate memorandum of understanding between the Council and the obligated party.

2) How Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council intends to identify eligible households

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council will identify households that may benefit from flexible eligibility in many ways.

What is the local picture and how do we compare?

- Nationally, projections for England indicate that there were likely to be around 2.39 million households identified as fuel poor (DECC 2013) representing approximately 11% of households.
- 9.4% of Rotherham's households were recognised as being fuel poor compared to 10.4% across England.
- Fuel poverty occurs right across the borough not just in the areas of highest deprivation.
- The highest levels of fuel poverty exist in private rented housing and homes constructed before 1919.
- The average SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) rating for a Council property is 70 (Band C) compared with 60 (Band D) in the private sector, equivalent to National figures. The SAP rating indicates the energy efficiency level of a property with a higher figure indicating greater efficiency

a. Identifying Fuel Poverty

Below are the criteria set by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council for ECO flexible eligibility Fuel Poverty qualification. For a resident of Rotherham to be deemed eligible they must meet both parts of the criteria listed below:

- i. Resident is on one of the benefits listed below and has a household income of less than £45,000 p/a:
 - a. Working Tax Credits
 - b. Child Tax Credits
 - c. Universal Credits
 - d. Income Support
 - e. Income related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
 - f. Income based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
 - g. Pension Guarantee Credit

and:

- ii. Resident has High Heating Costs (see qualification table below – a score of 50 points or more is required to qualify):

Question	Response	Score
How many bedrooms are	1	0

there in the home?	2	10
	3	30
	4	40
	5	50
	6 or more	60
Are your energy payments made by Direct Debit?	Yes	0
	No	15
What type of house does the customer live in?	Semi Detached	30
	Terraced	20
	Flat	0
	Detached	30
	Park Home	60
What is the customers tenure?	Private rented	15
	Owner occupied	0
	Registered Social Landlord	0
	Local Authority	0
Does the home use a boiler?	Yes	0
	No	5
Was the customers home built before 1976?	Yes	25
	No	0
What is the main fuel type used in the home?	Gas	0
	Electricity	30
	Other	15
TOTAL SCORE		

b. Identifying low income and vulnerability to cold

Below are the criteria set by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council for ECO flexible eligibility low income and vulnerability to cold qualification. For a resident of Rotherham to be deemed eligible they must meet only one of the four criteria listed below:

- i. The resident has one of the following illnesses and has a household income of less than £35,000 p/a:
 - a. Chronic Respiratory Condition e.g. COPD / Asthma / Pneumonia
 - b. Diabetes
 - c. Cardiovascular condition e.g. Coronary Heart Disease, high blood pressure, stroke, heart attack, poor circulation
 - d. Cancer
 - e. Mental Health Condition
 - f. Musculoskeletal conditions (inc. Osteoarthritis, Rheumatoid Arthritis etc.)
 - g. Long Term Illness made worse in Winter (i.e. Arthritis)
 - h. Blood conditions e.g. Sickle Cell Anaemia
 - i. Disability or Restricted Mobility
 - j. Neurological Condition (including dementia, Parkinson's Disease, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy etc)

- ii. The resident is aged over 60 and has a household income of less than £30,000 p/a

- iii. The resident is pregnant and has a household income of less than £45,000 p/a
- iv. The resident has young children under the age of 5 years and has a household income of less than £45,000 p/a

3) Acting on behalf of another local authority

This Statement of Intent is solely for the use of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and it will not be acting on behalf of any other local authority.

4) Joint statement of intent

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5) Governance

Responsible officer

The officer below will be responsible for checking and signing Declarations on behalf of the local authority.

Job title: Paul Maplethorpe

Telephone: 01709 334964

6) Evidence, monitoring and reporting

Feeling Fine in Rotherham managed by BillSaveUK will confirm eligibility on our behalf.

- a. Residents will be required to complete an assessment form with an assessor (RMBC Assessment Form V3) to confirm their eligibility.
- b. Eligible residents may need to confirm both their income and secondary eligibility criteria at a later date in order to deter fraudulent claims.
- c. BillSaveUK will report monthly to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council on which measures have been installed and the savings attributed.
- d. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and / or BillSaveUK may audit applications on a quarterly basis to help prevent fraud.

6) Referrals

Any Rotherham resident who believes that they may be eligible for help under flexible eligibility should contact Feeling Fine in Rotherham managed by BillSaveUK on 01709 357259. They will be able to check eligibility status and ask for relevant supporting documentation. They will also be able to refer the resident to a relevant assessor and installer to take the process further.

7) Signatures

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Bell'.

Tom Bell

Assistant Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services