

Energy Company Obligation (ECO): Help to Heat

Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

North Hertfordshire District Council 13/12/17 Version 1.0

www.north-herts.gov.uk/warmerhomes

1) Intro

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. North Hertfordshire District 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 ECO Order (Art 16 (A)) this 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:

North Hertfordshire District Council

This will contribute to North Hertfordshire District Council's corporate plan (2017 – 2021) priorities:

- Attractive and Thriving
- Prosper and protect
- Responsive and Efficient

It will help North Hertfordshire District Council fulfil the following objective in its Home Energy Conservation Act Progress Report 2017:

- Measures that we are taking to result in significant energy efficiency improvements of our residential accommodation

It will also contribute to the delivery of the Council's and climate change strategies.

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

North Hertfordshire District Council has opted to utilise ECO Flex to its fullest to help Hertfordshire Warmer Homes achieve its aims and reach a wider 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:

- 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 requires further measures to meet their Energy Company Obligation targets.

2) How the Local Authority intends to identify eligible households

We intend to identify eligible households through the Hertfordshire Warmer Homes scheme by ANY one of the 3 criteria in Table 1.

Criteria for identifying households on low income, in fuel poverty, and vulnerable to cold

Table 1:

Eligibility	Criteria
1.Low Income	Gross household disposable income (after rent or mortgage has been paid) £20,000 pa or less
2.High energy costs and either a) health condition made worse by the cold or b) vulnerable to the cold	Property with at least one of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100mm or less loft insulation • Unfilled cavity walls • No working central heating or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPC rating of D or below AND resident or household member either: a) health condition made worse by the cold as defined in table 2 below or b) vulnerable to the cold as defined by table 2 below
3.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	The following eligible benefits: Carer’s Allowance A Disability Benefit (incl. Attendance Allowance, Disabled Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment)

Table 2 aligned with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance 2015 on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes

a) Health conditions made worse by the cold	b) Vulnerable to the cold
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. people with cardiovascular conditions ii. people with respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma) iii. people with mental health conditions iv. people with disabilities v. people who are terminally ill vi. people with suppressed immune systems (e.g. from cancer treatment or HIV) vii. Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME) viii. Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Aged over 65, particularly those over 75 ii. Children under 5 and pregnant women iii. People with substance addictions iv. People who have attended hospital due to a fall in the last year v. People diagnosed with dementia vi. Recent immigrants and asylum seekers

3) Acting on behalf of another local authority

Not applicable

4) Joint Statement of Intent

Not applicable

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 North Hertfordshire District Council to obtain a signed 'Local Authority Declaration' confirming eligibility.

Responsible officer

The officers below will be responsible for signing Declarations on behalf of the local authority.

Job title: Environmental Health Manager
 Current postholder: Peter Carey
 Telephone: 01462 474861
 Email: peter.carey@north-herts.gov.uk

Job title: Environmental Protection & Housing Manager
 Current postholder: Shayne Crowe
 Telephone: 01462 474360
 Email: shayne.crowe@north-herts.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
NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
by**

Signature 

Name: Andrew Godman

Title: Head of Housing & Public Protection