

## Statement of Intent for ECO4

### **Broxbourne Borough Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent**

**Local Authority name: Broxbourne Borough Council**

**Publication Date: 25 January 2023**

**Version number: V.1**

**Publication on web site: [www.broxbourne.gov.uk](http://www.broxbourne.gov.uk)**

This statement sets out Broxbourne Borough Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme from April 2022 – March 2026.

The ECO4 scheme will focus on supporting low income and vulnerable households. The scheme 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 (LAs) to identifying 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), on the **25 January 2023** to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

**Route 1:** SAP bands D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households with an income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

**Route 2:** SAP bands E-G for owner-occupied households and private rented sector households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

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<b>Proxy 1)</b> Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA) <sup>1</sup> , or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 <sup>2</sup> , or the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2020, published by the Scottish Government <sup>3</sup>
<b>Proxy 2)</b> Householders receiving a Council Tax reduction (based on low income only).
<b>Proxy 3)</b> 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'.
<b>Proxy 4)</b> A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income.
<b>Proxy 5)</b> A householder supported by a LA run scheme, that has been named and described by the LA as supporting low income and vulnerable households for the purposes of NICE Guideline.
<b>Proxy 6)</b> 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.

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

**Route 3:** SAP bands D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households that have been identified by their doctor or GP as low-income and vulnerable, with an occupant whose health conditions may be impacted further by living in a cold home. These health conditions may be cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility related.

Households under this route can only be referred by:

- An NHS Foundation Trust
- An NHS Trust
- An NHS Health Board
- NHS General Medical Practitioner (GP)

This is because the Council has identified a positive correlation between households who suffer from long-term health conditions and living off a low-income, with living in poorly insulated homes.

<sup>1</sup> [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

<sup>2</sup> [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(full Index update with ranks\): 2019 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)

<sup>3</sup> [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

**Route 4:** SAP band D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. Suppliers and LAs can submit an application to BEIS where they have identified a low income and vulnerable household, who are not already eligible under the exiting routes.

### **“In-Fill” Properties**

To maximise delivery of energy efficiency improvements and increase the economies of scale, homes that are not eligible under standard ECO or ECO Flex criteria, may still be eligible for Flexible ECO funding for wall insulation if they are co-located with a minimum percentage of households who are eligible under ECO or ECO Flex criteria. 7 These ‘in-fill’ properties must meet the criteria stated below:

**Houses:** A ratio of 3:1 for solid wall insulation or district heating system connection. One in-fill property may be improved for every three homes that meet the ECO4 eligibility criteria. In-fill properties may only receive solid wall insulation or district heating system connection – whichever is the same measure as the other ECO-eligible homes in the same project and road. In-fill homes must have EPC ratings of D, E, F or G, and share the same street address as homes qualifying under ECO4 eligibility criteria to qualify.

In-fill houses can be owner-occupied, privately rented or socially rented.

**Flats:** A ratio of 1:1 in flats for solid wall insulation, cavity wall insulation, or district heating system connection. For every ECO-eligible flat, another ‘in-fill’ flat whose household would not otherwise be eligible for ECO can be treated under ECO4 in-fill. For example, in a block of flats, the whole block can be upgraded if at least 50% of the flats are occupied by ECO-eligible households.

The in-fill rule would apply irrespective of whether the in-fill flats within the same block are privately rented, owner occupied or social housing. There are no restrictions on eligible household EPC bands in in-fill flats, however the ECO4 eligible flats must be in band D-G for owner-occupied homes, and E-G for social housing or privately rented homes, and meet the proposed minimum requirements.

Our referral network may support households to take advantage of “in-fill” projects where the minimum number of ECO eligible households is met. This will involve contacting neighbouring properties to ascertain their eligibility.

Any “in-fill” projects will be undertaken in accordance with Ofgem’s Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) Guidance: Delivery Version 1, 14th October 2022. As part of this, the delivery agent must comply with the National and Local Planning and Building Control requirements and seek / obtain appropriate planning approval.

## **Declaration and evidence check confirmation**

All potentially eligible households should apply through **Eon** or one of their approved ECO installers to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme. They should use the contact details provided in the letter

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

**Name:** Steve Whitlam

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## **CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature**

Broxbourne Borough Council will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The CEO of 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alison Knight', is positioned above the 'Signature:' label.

**Signature:**

**Name:** Alison Knight

**Job Title:** Director of Place

**Date of signature:** 31.01.2023

For any general enquires relating to this SoI, please contact [sustainability@broxbourne.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@broxbourne.gov.uk).