



Statement of Intent for ECO4

Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council

ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: Newcastle- Under-Lyme Borough Council

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This statement sets out Newcastle- Under -Lyme 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 (Sol), on the 30/09/2022 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 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 households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

Withdrawn
and
Superseded
2nd May 2023

Proxy 1) Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA) ¹ , or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 ² , or the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2020, published by the Scottish Government ³
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) 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.
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 & 3, 6 & 7 cannot be used in combination with each other.**

Route 3: SAP bands D-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.

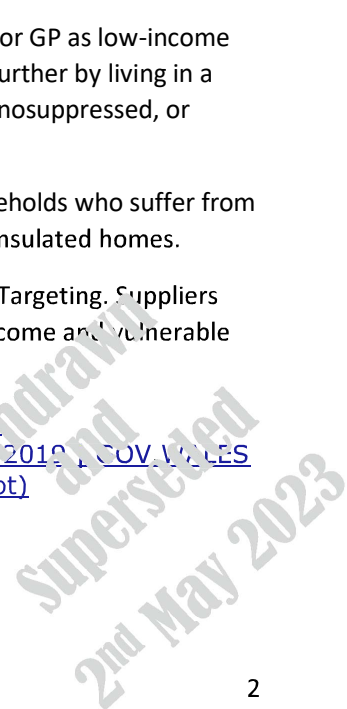
This is because the Council has identified a positive correlation between households who suffer from long-term health conditions and living off a low-income, with living in poorly insulated homes.

Route 4: SAP band D-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.

¹ [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414214/the-english-indices-of-deprivation-2019.pdf)

² [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(full Index update with ranks\) 2019 GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/welsh-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2019)

³ [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/pages/introduction.aspx)



Declaration and evidence check confirmation

Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council work in partnership with local charity Beat the Cold who act as the LA run scheme. They can support low income and vulnerable households for the purpose of NICE guidelines. All applications should be made through Beat the Cold, 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.

Households will be asked to give permission for their data to be shared as needed with the council and contractors, in line with GDPR regulations.

Beat the Cold can assist in the application process. Their contact details are:

The Bridge Centre, Stoke on Trent, ST2 8DD
FREEPHONE: 0800 3892258 or 01782 914915
<https://www.beatcold.org.uk>

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

Name: Gillian Taylor

Job Title: Housing and Vulnerability Team Leader

Telephone: 01782 717717

Email: housingmailbox@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

Newcastle under Lyme 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.

Signature:



Name: Martin Hamilton

Job Title: Chief Executive Newcastle -Under-Lyme Borough Council

Date of signature: 28/09/2022

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact:

housingmailbox@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

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