

Energy Company Obligation: Help to Heat

Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent (Version 2)

Maldon District Council

Date of publication: 1st May 2019

1) Introduction

Maldon District Council welcomes the introduction of Flexible Eligibility (FE) and intends to utilise it for the purposes of reducing fuel poverty in the district. We are fully supportive of the ECO 3 scheme launched in October 2018 by Government and this statement sets out the Authority's position with respect to "flexible eligibility".

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) survey carried out by suppliers agents/contractors and installation costs calculated, ii) the energy savings that can be achieved for a property, and iii) whether suppliers have achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their Energy Company Obligation targets.

In identifying households as eligible under flexible eligibility Maldon District Council is seeking to enable residents to benefit from funding and will seek the consent of households which will be included in the Declaration. Maldon District Council expects any obligated energy supplier, or contractor working on their behalf, to comply with the Data Protection Act, General Data Protection Regulations and 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 approved accredited Energy Company Obligation funder.

Residents of Social Housing should contact their Housing provider in the first instance because there is a specific part of the energy company obligation scheme that applies to Social Housing. Maldon District Council is unable to recommend Flexible Eligibility funding for Social Housing properties.

Likewise, we do not specifically intend to target those in the private sector on benefits for flexible eligibility as these households are captured under the Affordable Warmth Help to Heat portion of ECO3.

2) How Maldon District Council intends to identify eligible households

Maldon District Council will identify households that may benefit from flexible eligibility in a number of ways and which have taken account of The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Energy Company Obligation: ECO3, 2018-22 Flexible Eligibility Guidance (February 2019).

Households in receipt of an income-related benefit are considered as part of the ECO3 obligation and consequently are not eligible for consideration as part of the ECO3 Flex scheme.

For ECO3 Flex consideration will be given to those living in private tenure. Households not in receipt of income related benefit will be assessed using the below income thresholds:

| Household composition | Annual Household Income | Monthly Household Income Equivalent |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Adult | £ 9,300 | £ 775 |
| and 1 child | £ 12,200 | £ 1017 |
| and 2 child | £ 15,000 | £ 1250 |
| and 3 child | £ 18,000 | £ 1500 |
| and 4+ child | £ 21,000 | £ 1750 |
| 2 Adults | £ 15,200 | £ 1267 |
| and 1 child | £ 18,200 | £ 1517 |
| and 2 child | £ 21,100 | £ 1758 |
| and 3 child | £ 24,100 | £ 2008 |
| and 4+ child | £ 26,800 | £ 2233 |

The Annual Household Income here is defined as a household's disposable income after they have paid for their rent or mortgage. This comprises income from all sources, such as net earnings (after tax), income from savings and investments, pensions, all benefits (including housing benefit), and net council tax payments.

The above thresholds are set in accordance with the recommended thresholds contained in Table 1, Annex 6 of the BEIS guidance on ECO3 Flexible Eligibility (February 2019).

- If a household has an income under these thresholds, depending on composition, then it will be identified as being 'low income'
- The Council will cross reference data which they hold in their House Condition Surveys or can access on Energy Performance Certificates/SAP ratings.
- Low income households living in energy inefficient housing in the private rented sector will be identified through enforcement activity under the Housing Act 2004.

Please be aware that the annual household incomes given are after rent/mortgage and Council Tax have been deducted.

To potentially qualify for ECOFlex3 funding, the applicant household must be on a low income, as per the identified criteria above and satisfy **either** of the following:

Eligibility A) Low income AND Living in Fuel Poverty (High Cost)

To potentially be eligible for flexible eligibility, the property involved must **ALSO** have an EPC rating of D or worse. If no EPC is available then a decision will be made on a case-by-case basis by this Authority as to whether or not the "high cost" element exists and consequently whether or not an application may be eligible for ECO3 Flex funding.

Eligibility B) Low income AND vulnerability to cold

To potentially be eligible for flexible eligibility the property involved must **ALSO** have at least one resident at the applicant property that has a condition specified in the list below. These are broadly based upon NICE guideline NG6 on "Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risk associated with cold homes":

- people with cardiovascular conditions (e.g. ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease)
- people with respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma)
- people with mental health conditions (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder)
- Neurobiological and related disease (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME)
- Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)
- Autoimmune and immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. lupus, MS, diabetes, HIV).
- Cancer
- people with disabilities
- people with limited mobility
- older people (65 and older)
- young children (under 5)
- pregnant women
- people with addictions
- people who have attended hospital due to a fall
- recent immigrants and asylum seekers.
- People who are terminally ill.

Solid wall insulation “in-fill” projects

Where potential works have been identified households will be supported to take advantage of “in-fill” projects where the minimum number of vulnerable households is met.

3) Evidence, monitoring and reporting

Maldon District Council will ensure appropriate referral processes are in place while maintaining the protection of personal data. This will include identification of eligible households using national and local statistical data. We will also work with partner agencies to determine those that may be vulnerable due to living in a cold home and/or suffering from a qualifying medical condition.

4) Governance

Responsible officer/s

The Statement of Intent (SOI) will be signed on behalf of Maldon District Council by:

Richard Holmes
Director of Service Delivery

Signature..... 1st May 2019

Declarations will be signed on behalf of Maldon District Council by:

Lead Specialist (Community) or Environmental Protection Team Leader/Senior Specialist (Community) or, in their absence, by, Environmental Health Officers or Specialist(s) (Community – Environmental Health)