

Energy Company Obligation: Help to Heat
Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent
Maldon District Council

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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 borough.

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 Maldon District Council is seeking to enable residents to benefit from funding and will seek the consent of households to including them in a Declaration. Maldon District Council expects any obligated energy supplier, or contractor working on their behalf, 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 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:

a. Identifying fuel poverty

Subject to availability of resources within the Council and the legal use of data the Council will target those most in need having regard to BEIS guidance on targeting, including:

- i. Those living in private sector and in receipt of the relevant means-tested benefits and/or on a low income
- ii. We will cross-reference data on income with data that we hold or can access on Energy Performance Certificates, prepayment meters, expenditure on fuel, housing type/age/condition, heating type
- iii. Low income households living in energy inefficient housing will be identified in the private rented sector through enforcement activity under the Housing Act 2004

b. Identifying low income and vulnerability to cold

Maldon District Council will target households containing people with the following characteristics, which reflects the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) 2015 guidance on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes.

- i. Aged over 60, and particularly those over 75
- ii. Children under 5 and pregnant mothers
- iii. Respiratory disease (COPD, asthma)
- iv. Cardiovascular disease (e.g. ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease)
- v. Moderate to severe mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder)
- vi. Substance misusers
- vii. Dementia
- viii. Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME)
- ix. Cancer
- x. Limited mobility
- xi. Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)
- xii. Severe learning disabilities
- xiii. Autoimmune and immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. lupus, MS, diabetes, HIV)

c. 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) Governance

Responsible officer

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

Fiona Marshall

Chief Executive

4) Evidence, monitoring and reporting

- a. Anonymised data on the characteristics of households reached through FE will be reviewed.
- b. The data above will include details of households assessed, how many were deemed eligible and ineligible, and how many received heating and insulation improvements
- c. All households for whom Declarations were made will be contacted within 28 days

5) Signature

Chief Executive Maldon District Council