

Energy Company Obligation Help to Heat

Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

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1. Introduction

Wakefield Council intends to work closely with energy companies, installers and customers to maximise the input of Flexible Eligibility ECO for fuel poor households in the Wakefield district.

Under the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Regulations 2017 - 2018 (ECO2t) local authorities can set their own criteria for eligibility for funding for domestic energy efficiency measures. This funding is aimed at those within a local authority most likely to be in fuel poverty. Energy companies can spend up to a maximum of 10% of their full obligation within these criteria.

The Leeds City Region (LCR) has adopted a City Region wide approach to implementing the Flexible Eligibility policy initiative within the 2017/18 Energy Company Obligation regulations, through the Better Homes Yorkshire (BHY) programme. The Wakefield Council Statement of Intent fits within this framework.

Flexible Eligibility ECO fits with the Council's strategic objectives to improve home energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions, specifically:

- Wakefield Council's Wakefield District Good Growth Plan contains the objective of 'Growing Good Places' to improve the home and wider environment for local residents;
- The Wakefield District Outcomes Framework contains the objective of 'Caring for our people' and the delivery of measures to alleviate fuel poverty and

make homes warmer so reducing the cold homes related health problems will contribute towards this;

- The Wakefield Council Energy Plan contains the central vision for Wakefield to be a *thriving sustainable district powered by clean energy with minimal carbon emissions achieving good growth*;
- The Clean Energy Pledge, which aims for the Wakefield district to be powered by clean energy by 2050;
- The Wakefield Affordable Warmth Charter and its objective to reduce fuel poverty and for everyone in the District to live in a warm and health home;
- The Wakefield Housing Strategy and its 'Better Homes, Better Health' objective to improve home energy efficiency standards, reduce fuel poverty and create warm and healthy homes.

Wakefield Council aims to maximise the Flexible Eligibility ECO and to do this clear and simple criteria will be set to identify eligible households via two routes:

1. **Individual Circumstances** - based on Low Income High Cost or Low Income and Vulnerability to Cold criteria (defined below);
2. **Geographical Areas** - selected based on their deprivation and/or fuel poverty levels (defined below).

This approach has been taken to maximise the potential for funding, however fitting the criteria within this Statement of Intent does not guarantee that any individual household will benefit from energy saving improvements as the final decision on funding rests with energy suppliers and will depend on:

- The survey carried out and installation costs calculated,
- The energy savings that can be achieved for a property, and
- Whether suppliers have achieved their ECO targets or require further measures to meet their ECO targets (this will affect the amount of funding available through the scheme).

2. How the LA intends to identify eligible households

Households are considered eligible for Flexible Eligibility ECO if they are at risk of living in fuel poverty (FP) or a low income household, with at least one household member vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home (LIVC).

a) Individual Circumstances – Low Income High Cost

Households will be considered to be at risk of fuel poverty if they are assessed to be a low income household, living in a high cost home in relation to energy use. Households need to meet the Stage 1 (Low Income) criteria and one of the Stage 2 (High Cost) criteria, based on March 2015 'Government Fuel Poverty Strategy'.

Stage		Criteria
1. Low Income		Gross household income of <£21,000
2. High Cost	A	Property EPC rating of E, F or G
	B	Property EPC rating of D; and Living in a hard to treat home - defined as a property that has solid walls, non-standard cavity walls, system built walls, is off the gas network, or has no loft.
	C	Property EPC rating of D; and Is a family – defined as where there is a child under 16 residing in the household.

b) Individual Circumstance - Low Income and Vulnerability to Cold

Households will be considered a low Income household and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home, if they meet Stage 1 (Low Income) criteria and someone in the household meets one of the Stage 2 (Vulnerable to Cold) criteria. These are

based on NICE guideline NG6 on 'Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes'.

Stage		Criteria
1. Low Income		Gross household income of <£21,000
3. Vulnerable to Cold	A – Health condition made worse by cold	Property EPC rating of D; and Health condition made worse by cold – which are chronic respiratory, cardio vascular, or musculoskeletal illness, or mental health conditions.
	B – Vulnerable to Cold	Property EPC rating of D; and Vulnerable Elderly – defined as being aged over 70.

c) Geographical Area - deprivation and fuel poverty

Households within the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) listed below are identified as households in fuel poverty as they fall in to the 10% most deprived areas based on the Index for Multiple Deprivation.

In addition, households located within the E01011760 LSOA at Wilson Street, Castleford are defined by Wakefield Council as a priority area for action due to its high levels of fuel poverty and hard-to-treat properties (Castleford External Wall Insulation Local Growth Fund (LGF) Scheme).

LSOA	LSOA Description	IMD Score	IMD Rank	IMD Decile	Ward
E01011750	Castleford Airedale, Between Holywell and The Square	72.735	173	1	Airedale and Ferry Fryston
E01011792	Kinsley West of Wakefield Road	72.138	195	1	Hemsworth
E01011746	Castleford New Fryston, Areas of Fryston Road	68.255	354	1	Airedale and Ferry Fryston
E01011780	Featherstone Priory Estate	65.23	520	1	Featherstone
E01011811	Knottingley Warwick Estate (East) and glassworks	63.984	611	1	Knottingley
E01011747	Castleford Red Hill, Areas around The Lakes Estate	60.594	880	1	Airedale and Ferry Fryston
E01011906	Wakefield Portobello	60.424	895	1	Wakefield South
E01011863	South Elmsall The Trees Estate	60.356	901	1	South Elmsall and South Kirkby

E01011910	Wakefield Eastmoor, Queen Elizabeth Road	59.67	951	1	Wakefield East
E01011917	Wakefield Belle Vue to Calder Vale	56.302	1303	1	Wakefield East
E01011803	Warwick Estate (Simpsons Lane) and Rainsborough Park	55.665	1386	1	Knottingley
E01011901	Wakefield Lupset, Chantry Road	55.391	1414	1	Wakefield West
E01011916	Wakefield City Centre	54.744	1506	1	Wakefield North
E01011842	Pontefract Barracks Estate	54.586	1529	1	Pontefract North
E01011789	Hemsworth West End and Hemsworth Water Park	53.836	1622	1	Hemsworth
E01011745	Castleford Fryston, Watling Road, Borrowdale Drive	53.462	1669	1	Airedale and Ferry Fryston
E01011904	Wakefield Lupset, Whinney Moor Avenue	52.211	1849	1	Wakefield West
E01011864	South Kirkby Hilltop Estate and South Kirkby Common	51.733	1929	1	South Elmsall and South Kirkby
E01011899	Wakefield Lupset, Gissing Road	50.82	2085	1	Wakefield West
E01011922	Wakefield Lupset, Snapethorpe Gate, Magdalene Road	50.519	2134	1	Wakefield West
E01011756	Castleford Lisheen Avenue Estate	50.452	2146	1	Castleford Central and Glasshoughton
E01011869	South Elmsall Moorthorpe	50.065	2210	1	South Elmsall and South Kirkby
E01011911	Wakefield Eastmoor, Amcliffe Road, Linton Road	49.511	2308	1	Wakefield East
E01011912	Wakefield College Grove	49.345	2336	1	Wakefield East
E01011764	Castleford Cutsyke	49.207	2368	1	Altofts and Whitwood
E01011838	Pontefract Area Around The Castle	48.979	2422	1	Pontefract North
E01011850	Pontefract Willow Park	47.998	2598	1	Pontefract South
E01011918	Wakefield Lupset, Lindsay Avenue and Johnson Road areas	46.049	2968	1	Wakefield North
E01011791	Fitzwilliam Newstead Area	45.612	3051	1	Hemsworth
E01011816	Normanton Queen Elizabeth Drive	45.165	3158	1	Normanton

3. Governance

West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) approved the approach on the 6th of April 2017. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority consists of councillors from the West Yorkshire Authorities, City of York Council and a representative of the Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership. This Wakefield Council Statement of Intent has been approved by the Service Director of Economic Growth and Housing.

Declarations will be valid if signed by officers within the Sustainability Team, based in Strategic Housing or the Service Manager Strategic Housing.

4. Referrals

Schemes will receive referrals from front line health and social care stakeholders and the Council's partners through the Wakefield Affordable Warmth Partnership.

All LCR Flexible Eligibility ECO will be delivered by the BHY programme, which was procured in December 2014 and launched in March 2015, to respond to the challenge of cold homes and fuel poverty. WYCA, and all 10 LCR local authorities, contracted with Keepmoat to deliver domestic energy efficiency measures, secure ECO and Green Deal funding (and their successors), up to 2018 with the potential to extend to 2022.

Further details will be added when a partnership with a supplier has been concluded.

5. Evidence, monitoring and reporting

Data will be reported on a project basis.

Regular meetings with BHY are held to monitor progress. Numbers targeted, signed up, quoted and measures installed are measured. Addresses, measures installed, cost of installation, before and after EPCs, and qualification criteria will be held for each household. Project cost controls are in place.

A declaration for the **Castleford External Wall Insulation Local Growth Fund Scheme** will be signed and sent to BHY to cover the E01011760 area. All properties have been checked to make sure they are in the correct area.

Declarations, which form part of the LGF are subject to monthly and quarterly monitoring to track progress against forecast delivery, and progress to achieving outputs. The monitoring reports are completed by the Council and submitted to the WYCA Home Energy Programme Manager. A monitoring report for the Programme is completed by the Programme Manager and submitted to the WYCA Growth Deal monitoring team. The Growth Deal monitoring team meet regularly with colleagues at BEIS to discuss progress, risks and issues.

The WYCA Programme Manager also reports regularly to the Better Homes Yorkshire Programme Board, which is made up of senior representatives from each local authority, and chaired by Bradford Council.

If enquiries are received from members of the public, outside of the projects above, they will be referred to BHY. The call centre will determine likely eligibility under the Individual Circumstances and the Geographical Area criteria. If applicable BHY will visit and collect evidence of eligibility; this will be loaded on a secure portal. An authorised Wakefield Council Officer will check the evidence proves the household is eligible and issue a signed declaration to the same portal. Calls will be recorded on the monthly report under the authority, in a section marked 'Flexible Eligibility' and where households are found not to be eligible this will also be recorded. If households are eligible then measures will be tracked through the process. The monthly report will be sent to the Better Homes Officers' Group and be included in annual KPI reports.

6. Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Pearson', written over a horizontal line.

Sarah Pearson

Service Director, Economic Growth and Housing

