

**Energy Company Obligation: Help to Heat  
Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent**

**Local Authority: Tendring District Council**

**Date of Publication: 26/02/2019**

**Version: Version 2**

**URL: <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/energy>**

**Introduction:**

Tendring District Council welcomes the increase in Flexible Eligibility (FE) to 25% under ECO3 and intends to utilise it for the purposes of reducing fuel poverty in the District. This Statement of Intent (SOI) sets out how households will be declared to be eligible for ECO 3 funding via FE, in accordance with guidelines from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). This Scheme is part of the government's Affordable Warmth programme.

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 any works that may help reduce fuel poverty and the final decision will depend on:

- i) identification of measures eligible under ECO3
- ii) the supplier's assessment of the cost effectiveness of installing measures in relation to achieving its obligation
- 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 Tendring District Council (TDC) is seeking to enable residents to benefit from funding and will obtain consent from households before including them in a Declaration.

Tendring District Council expects any obligated energy supplier or contractor working on their behalf, to comply with the Data Protection Act and General Data Protection Regulation, to fully follow Ofgem requirements for the Energy Company Obligation 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.

## How Tendring District Council intends to identify eligible households

The Council will identify households that may benefit from flexible eligibility in a number of ways:

### By identifying fuel poverty:

Subject to availability of resources within the Council and the legal use of data private tenure households must fit one, or more of the following criteria:

- a) Living in fuel poverty but not in receipt of benefits
- b) Low income and vulnerability to cold (LIVC)

This criteria will be kept under review, in relation to levels of referrals made, delivery of installed measures and the practices of other authorities

### Criteria for identifying 'living in Fuel Poverty, but not in receipt of benefits' and 'low income and vulnerability to cold'

To be eligible the applicant must meet criterion 1 AND either criterion 2 OR criterion 3 below.

#### 1. Household income

Less than £20,000.00 in savings (including additional properties)  
Annual household income:-

	No children	1 child	2 children	3 children	4+ children
1 Adult	£10,000	£12,800	£15,600	£18,700	£21,800
2 Adults	£16,000	£19,000	£21,800	£24,800	£27,300

Household income is calculated as 'income after tax plus income from saving, benefits and pensions minus the cost of rent or mortgage'.

- The threshold levels used were taken from the Energy Company Obligation: ECO3, 2018-22 Flexible Eligibility Guidance with a marginal increase to take account of the higher levels of deprivation in the district
- If a household has an income under these thresholds, depending on composition, and savings below the threshold then it will be identified as being 'low income'

#### 2. High Energy Costs

- a) EPC rating of D or below
  - b) Households living in non-standard construction and poorly performing homes
  - c) Off-grid properties
- The Council will cross reference data which we hold or can access on Energy Performance Certificates/ SAP ratings, pre-payment meters, expenditure on fuel, housing type/age/condition, heating type, the gas grid
  - Low income households living in energy inefficient housing will be identified in the private rented sector through enforcement activity under the Housing Act 2004

### **3. Vulnerable to Cold**

The Council will target households containing people with the following characteristics, which reflect the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) 2015 guidance on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes. Specifically these are:

- Older people (aged over 65 and particularly those over 75)
- Young children (under 5)
- People with Respiratory conditions (in particular Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and childhood asthma)
- People with Cardiovascular conditions (eg ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease)
- People with mental health conditions (eg schizophrenia, bipolar disorder)
- Pregnant women
- People who have attended hospital due to a fall
- People with Dementia
- People with Neurobiological and related conditions (eg fibromyalgia, ME)
- People with terminal illness
- People with Autoimmune and Immunodeficiency diseases (eg. from Cancer treatment, HIV, MS)
- People with disabilities
- Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)
- People with Severe learning disabilities
- People who move in and out of homelessness

Any referral or enquiry received that does not meet the above requirements will be considered on a case by case basis.

#### **a) Solid wall insulation "in-fill" project**

Where potential works have been identified, households will be supported to take advantage of ECO funding for solid wall insulation under the "in-fill" category as set out in the guidance issued by BEIS in April 2017, and subject to the rules and restrictions set out therein, in particular in relation to the minimum number of FP/LIVC households being met.

**Referrals**

Tendring District Council will ensure appropriate referral processes are in place while maintaining the protection of personal data. This will include initial identification of eligible households using the BRE Housing Stock Assessment for Tendring. We will also work with partner agencies to determine those that may be vulnerable due to living in a cold home, suffering from a qualifying medical condition.

**Evidence, monitoring and reporting**

Tendring District Council will record key information including the number of referrals made and the number of funded installations delivered for reporting both to BEIS and future Home Energy Conservation Reports

**Governance**

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

Paul Price  
Director - Operational Services

Signature.....

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

Rachel Stirling  
Technical Officer  
Private Sector Housing

Signature.....