

Statement of Intent for ECO4

East Staffordshire Borough Council

ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: East Staffordshire Borough Council

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This statement sets out East Staffordshire 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 (SoI), on the TBC 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 owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-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 for owner-occupied households and private rented sector households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

<p>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 2019², or the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2020, published by the Scottish Government³</p>
<p>Proxy 2) Household receiving a Council Tax rebate (rebates based on low income only).</p>
<p>Proxy 3) Household 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'.</p>
<p>Proxy 4) A household receiving free school meals due to low-income.</p>
<p>Proxy 5) A household 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.</p>
<p>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.</p>

* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

Route 3: SAP bands D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households that have been identified by either a person registered in the General Practitioner Register, a Scottish Health Board, a Welsh Health Board, an NHS Foundation Trust, or an NHS Trust as 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 owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. Suppliers and LAs can submit an application to ESNZ 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)

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

³ [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

East Staffordshire 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: Rachel Liddle

Job Title: Environmental Health Manager

Telephone: 01283 508838

Email: ehsupport@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

East Staffordshire 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: REDACTED- Please contact ESBC to obtain a copy

Name: John Teasdale

Job Title: Borough Solicitor and Monitoring officer

Date of signature: 22/6/23

For any general enquires relating to this SoI, please contact ehsupport@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk