Statement of Intent for ECO4

**Doncaster Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent**

**Local Authority name: City of Doncaster Council**

**Publication Date: 01/02/2023**

**Version number: V.4**

**Publication on web site:** [**www.doncaster.gov.uk**](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk)

This statement sets out Doncaster 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 07/12/2022 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-Ghouseholds with an income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

**Route 2:** SAP bands E-Ghouseholds that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

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| --- |
| **Proxy 1)** Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA)[[1]](#footnote-1), or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019[[2]](#footnote-2), or the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2020, published by the Scottish Government[[3]](#footnote-3) |
| **Proxy 2)** Householders receiving a Council Tax rebate (rebates based on low income only, excludes single person rebates). |
| **Proxy 3)** Householders 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’. |
| **Proxy 4)** A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income. |
| **Proxy 5)** A householder 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. LA run scheme to be confirmed. |
| **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. |
| **Proxy 7)** Non-Pre-Payment meter households will be eligible if in debt for more than 13 weeks, ending with the day on which the declaration is made, **and** in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier or repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party deductions. (Suppliers only). |

\* Note proxies 1 and 3 and proxies 6 and 7 cannot be used in combination with each other.

**Route 3:** SAP bands D-G households that have been identified by their doctor or GP 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 households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. Suppliers and LAs can submit an application to BEIS where they have identified a low income and vulnerable household, who are not already eligible under the exiting routes.

**Evidence, monitoring and reporting**

All installers working under this agreement may need to confirm eligibility of a property and/or its occupants for ECO4 Flex. Residents will be required to complete an assessment form with a relevant qualified assessor. No household self-declarations will be allowed.

* All installers working under this agreement will report to City of Doncaster Council on which measures have been installed and the savings attributed on a quarterly basis.
* All declarations held by installers must match the declarations sent by Doncaster Council to Ofgem.
* Installers must retain all proof of eligibility for the selected referral route for later auditing purposes. City of Doncaster Council may randomly audit applications on a quarterly basis to help prevent fraud.

**ECO4 Flex Advertising**

A fully up and running web page should always be accessible giving clear information about the scheme and the company. Any changes to both phone number and web pages should be updated on the leaflet before it is used to prevent out of date information being given to residents. Information about what is on offer should be clear and what the resident can expect from the scheme.

No reference should be made to this being a totally free scheme but subject to survey there may be a fee, and this should not be in small print but clear bold.

All ECO-4 flex advertising literature used by approved installers should first be seen and approved by City of Doncaster Council.

Any installer found to be repeatedly using sales tactics that City of Doncaster Council deem to be immoral/misleading can have its declarations and work through ECO-4 flex in Doncaster stopped by City of Doncaster Council.

**Declaration and evidence check confirmation**

All potentially eligible households should apply through City of Doncaster Council 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.

The officer below will be responsible for checking and verifying declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of the local authority:

**Name:** Dominic Allison

**Job Title:** Low Carbon Development Officer – Built Environment

**Telephone:** 01302 736331

**Email:** [dominic.allison@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:dominic.allison@doncaster.gov.uk)

**CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature**

City of Doncaster 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:** 

**Name:** Damian Allen

**Job Title:** Chief Executive

**Date of signature:** 1st February 2023

For general enquires relating to this SoI, please contact [insulation.grants@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:insulation.grants@doncaster.gov.uk)

1. [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835115/IoD2019_Statistical_Release.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (full Index update with ranks): 2019 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/welsh-index-multiple-deprivation-full-index-update-ranks-2019) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)](https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)