

## Statement of Intent for ECO4

### Exeter City Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: Exeter City Council

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This statement sets out Exeter City 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 14/12/2022 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-G households and private rented sector E-G households with a gross annual income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region and is from all sources of income, including both non means tested and means tested benefits

**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:

**Proxy 1)\*** Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA)<sup>1</sup>.

**Proxy 2)** Household receiving a Council Tax rebate (rebates based on low income only, excludes single person rebates).

**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'.

**Proxy 4)** A household receiving free school meals due to low-income.

**Proxy 5)** 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.

\* 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 have been identified by their doctor or GP as low-income and 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 and private rented sector E-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 existing routes.

### **Declaration and evidence check confirmation**

All potentially eligible households should apply through Exeter City 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.

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<sup>1</sup> [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

It should be noted that the final decision on whether any individual household will benefit from energy saving improvements or heating 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
- iii) whether the supplier has achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their Energy Company Obligation targets.

Exeter City Council expects that energy suppliers or agents of energy suppliers involved in flexible eligibility surveys and works identified will comply with the Data Protection Act in accordance with Ofgem requirements, will act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards and will comply fully with the requirements set out in The Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2018.

Companies and individuals must not falsely represent their association with the Council and must not use the Exeter City Council logo on paperwork unless formally agreed.

At initial engagement with prospective clients, representatives must confirm who they are, which company they are working for, and whether that company has been subcontracted by another company or will be selling on householder details.

The administration charge levied by Exeter City Council in providing the declaration necessary for clients to access the ECO Flexible Eligibility Scheme is £100 + VAT. This charge must be paid by the energy supplier or their agent and may not under any circumstances, be passed on to the client receiving assistance via the scheme. Billing will be monthly. Failure to pay a monthly bill may lead to declarations associated with the Energy Company being refused. The Council reserves the right to waiver administration costs where it is working in partnership with an Energy Company or its representatives.

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

**Name:** Philip Gilbert

**Job Title:** Environmental Health & Community Safety Manager

For all enquires please contact [claire.hope@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:claire.hope@exeter.gov.uk)

**CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature**

Exeter City Council will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The Service Lead – Environmental Health & Community Safety at Exeter City 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:**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Lane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

**Name:** Simon Lane

**Job Title:** Service Lead – Environmental Health & Community Safety

**Date of signature:** 14/12/2022