



## Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

**Local Authority** – Doncaster Council

**Local authority you are acting on behalf of (if relevant)** – n/a

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### 1. Introduction

This statement sets out Doncaster Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the ECO: Help to Heat programme. It aims to help households living in fuel poverty, living on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of a cold home.

Low income and vulnerable households are at significant risk of falling into fuel poverty, becoming exposed to the effects of living in a cold home and the associated debt. To address this issue and to meet one of the Council's corporate objectives 'Improving the quality and effectiveness of support for the most vulnerable', Doncaster Council will use the local authority flexible eligibility criteria to implement the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Affordable Warmth grant. This will allow the Council to deliver energy efficiency measures to fuel poor households not covered under the existing criteria, as well as to low income and vulnerable households.

Doncaster Council has a strong history of delivering energy efficiency and fuel poverty projects, whether this be through large scale cavity wall, solid wall and loft insulation schemes to boiler replacement grants; delivering first time gas central heating or installing solar photovoltaics, all to help reduce the cost of living for residents and reduce the health impacts of living in a cold home. With the recent introduction of its new energy company, Great North Energy, the Council will aim to capitalise on the success of previous projects and combine low cost energy supplies with further home energy improvements made possible through its flexible eligibility criteria.

The final decision on whether any individual household can benefit from energy saving improvements under Flexible ECO Affordable Warmth will be made by the obligated suppliers or their agents/contractors. Although we may declare a household to be eligible the final decision will be depend upon i) survey carried out by suppliers agents/contractors and installation costs calculated, ii) the energy savings that can be achieved for a property, and iii) whether suppliers have achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their Affordable Warmth targets.

### 2. How the Council and Contractors will identify eligible households



Doncaster Council has set parameters to capture households that may benefit from the installation of measures under Flexible Eligibility as either those with a low household income, are vulnerable or at risk of living in fuel poverty (FP) or (b) living on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home (LIVC) or (c) living in a residential park home with no mains gas connection.

**a. Criteria for identifying households in fuel poverty (FP)**

Private sector households will be considered at risk of fuel poverty if they are determined to be a low income household, living in a high cost home in relation to energy use.

Households must meet Stage 1 (Low Income) criteria and one of the Stage 2 criteria, based on March 2015 England Fuel Poverty Strategy.

**b. Criteria for identifying low income and vulnerability to cold (LIVC)**

Private sector households will be considered vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home if they are determined to be a low income household (Stage 1) and meet one of the criteria listed in Stage 2.

Stage 1	Criteria
1) Low Income	Monthly household *income of £1,484 or less

*\*income is after housing costs, so any costs for rent or mortgage payments must be removed first.*

Stage 2 (Fuel Poverty)	Criteria
SAP Rating of 68 or under; and - x1 Characteristic of Fuel Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child under 16 – resident in the household</li> <li>• Over age 65</li> <li>• Property has solid walls / non-standard cavity walls / system built walls / is off the gas network / or has no loft.</li> <li>• Property has no central heating / central heating isn't working / Has no cavity wall insulation</li> </ul>

Stage 2 (LIVC)	Criteria
SAP Rating of 68 or under; and - x1 Characteristic of LIVC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• people with cardiovascular conditions</li> <li>• people with respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)</li> <li>• people with mental health conditions</li> <li>• people with disabilities</li> <li>• people who are terminally ill</li> <li>• pregnant women</li> </ul>



## Vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home

The NICE guideline 'Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes' states that: a wide range of people are vulnerable to the cold. This is either because of a medical condition, a disability, or personal circumstances. Households will qualify under the flexible eligibility criteria where they have one occupant or more who is vulnerable to the cold outlined in the NICE guideline and shown in Stage 2.

### c. Living in a residential park home

All owner occupied or privately rented residential park homes, with no mains gas connection to the park home, are eligible.

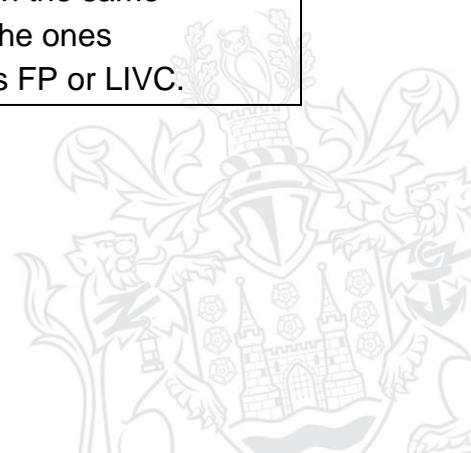
### d. Requirements for solid wall insulation "in-fill" projects

For some solid wall insulation projects, certain properties may be classed as eligible based on the in-fill classification. Doncaster Council recognised the criteria as follows:

Property Type	Requirements	In-fill available
Project consisting of a pair of semi-detached houses or bungalows, or a building containing no more than two domestic premises.	At least one of the two properties must be declared by the LA as FP or LIVC (i.e. 50% of the properties are FP or LIVC).	The other private property to which it is directly adjoined is eligible for solid wall insulation.
Project consisting of any premises that are contained in the same building (e.g. flats), immediately adjacent buildings (e.g. neighbouring properties) or in the same terrace.	At least two in three properties on the list must be declared by the LA as FP or LIVC (i.e. at least 66% of the properties are FP or LIVC).	The other (i.e. up to one third) of private properties in the project are eligible for solid wall insulation, provided they are either in the same building, an immediately adjacent building or in the same terrace as the ones identified as FP or LIVC.

### 3. Acting on behalf of another local authority

We are not acting on behalf of another local authority.



#### **4. Joint statement of intent**

We are not working in association with another local authority.

#### **5. Governance**

ECO Flexible Eligibility (aka Help to Heat programme) is governed by Doncaster Council's Energy Team.

This team's role is to:

- To coordinate domestic energy efficiency projects across Doncaster
- To reduce inequalities in health by targeting the neighbourhoods with the lowest levels of healthy life expectancy.

The declaration of households that meet Doncaster Council's Flexible Eligibility criteria will be valid if signed by the Council's Energy Manager on behalf of the local authority.

Email: [energy.team@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:energy.team@doncaster.gov.uk)

#### **6. Referrals**

A proactive approach is taken to generating referrals, with Neighbourhood Energy Officers visiting residents across Doncaster. This is supported by numerous health and social care officers who signpost vulnerable residents to the Energy Team.

#### **7. Signature**

Signed by: Peter Dale

Date: 31 January 2020

Position: Director of Economy & Environment  
Doncaster Council

