



ECO Flexible Eligibility – Statement of Intent

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
05/09/2017
Version 1
Publication on website:
www.basingstoke.gov.uk/climatechange

1) Introduction

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) have committed to assisting those in fuel poverty to access funding for improvement to their domestic heating arrangements, as set out in pledge two of the Climate Change Strategy 2014 – 2020. As part of this, BDBC have set up a Low Carbon Loan scheme, to provide loans and grants to households less able to pay for home energy improvements. BDBC intend to use Flexible Eligibility to extend the support available to households vulnerable to cold weather who cannot afford the full cost of making the necessary home improvements to keep warm enough. Flexible Eligibility will allow BDBC to reach a greater number of residents living in Fuel Poverty and who are at risk from living in a cold home, providing greater opportunities for residents to improve their home energy efficiency. This Statement of Intent sets out eligibility criteria which the council will use in recommending households for ECO measures. This set of criteria follow guidance from the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy¹. Although what follows is BDBC's intention, the final decision of what ECO measures are delivered will depend on

- i) survey carried out by suppliers' agents/contractors and installation costs calculated
- ii) the energy savings that can be achieved for a property
- iii) whether suppliers have achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their ECO targets.

2) How the LA intends to identify eligible households

In order to be eligible, a household must meet the criteria in either section (a) OR section (b).

(a) Criteria for identifying households in fuel poverty

Households will be classed as being in fuel poverty if they meet the criteria for a Low Income household AND High Cost household.

¹ Guidance on Flexible Eligibility, published by the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-company-obligation-eco-help-to-heat-scheme-flexible-eligibility>

- Low Income households can be identified as those who fall below the income thresholds outlined in table one:

Household composition	Annual household income	Monthly household income equivalent
1 adult (18 years and over)	£8,900	£740
And 1 child	£11,700	£980
And 2 children	£14,400	£1,200
And three children	£17,300	£1,440
And four or more children	£20,100	£1,680
2 adults (18 years and over)	£14,600	£1,220
And 1 child	£17,400	£1,450
And 2 children	£20,200	£1,680
And three children	£23,100	£1,930
And four or more children	£25,700	£2,140

Table 1: Low Income thresholds BDBC will use to identify households eligible for ECO support

- High Cost households can be identified as those who:
 - Live in the property with an EPC banding of E, F or G OR
 - The property is hard to heat: solid walls, off the mains gas network, no central heating, park home or built before 1964

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

Households will be classed as being on low income and vulnerable to the cold if one or more members of the household:

- Has a health or vulnerability condition exacerbated by living in a cold home, with written confirmation from one of the following:
 - i. Their GP
 - ii. Hospital
 - iii. Other medical professional
 - iv. Social worker
- Is over the age of 65
- Is under the age of 5
- Is a pregnant woman

- Has acute or long term debt
- Do not currently have a central heating system

AND the household fall below the income thresholds as outlined in table 1, section 2a.

(c) Any details of scheme requirements for SWI "in-fill" projects

- BDBC do not intend to include solid wall insulation in-fill into flexible eligibility at this time.

3) Acting on behalf of another local authority

BDBC are making this declaration independently and are not acting on behalf of another LA.

4) Joint statement of intent

This statement of intent is for the sole use of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. The outlined criteria are only relevant to borough residents.

5) Governance

This Statement of Intent has been signed by BDBC's Executive Director of Borough Services, Rebecca Emmett.

BDBC's supplier will identify households who approach them who are eligible for funding through flexible eligibility and submit evidence to the climate change team to consider. If evidence provided demonstrates meeting the criteria for flexible eligibility, the declaration will be signed by a Climate Change Officer and returned to the supplier to carry out the work.

6) Referrals

BDBC expects referrals to come in a number of ways, including, but not limited to:

- i. Self-referrals from residents
- ii. Frontline council officers
- iii. From established links with Citizens' Advice Bureau
- iv. From established links with Hampshire's Hitting the Cold Spots
- v. Health and Social Care professionals where suitable links are being established locally

7) Evidence, monitoring and reporting

Data will be collected from residents in order to confirm eligibility and monitor effective targeting of the scheme. This will include evidence of household income and official letters as relevant in order to prevent fraud.

Households who have received a measure will be recorded with information stored securely and confidentially. Overall numbers of households who have benefitted will be reported biennially in the Home Energy Conservation Act report. This will break down what funding mechanism households have received support from and overall estimated energy bill and carbon savings where the data allows.

Activity through the scheme will also be recorded as part of the Climate Change Strategy 2014 – 2020. This information will form part of reporting to the relevant Portfolio Holder when the Climate Change Strategy beyond 2020 is developed.

8) Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RE', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rebecca Emmett, Executive Director of Borough Services

Date: 05/09/2017