## Statement of Intent for ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme

**Lichfield District Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent**

**Local Authority name: Lichfield District Council**

**Publication Date: 23/01/2025**

**Version number: V.8**

**Publication on web site:** [Statement of intent for ECO flexible eligibility](https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/download/44/statement-of-intent-for-eco-flexible-eligibility)

This statement sets out Lichfield District 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 and/or vulnerable to the cold.

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (SoI), on the 06/10/2023 to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below which are being used by the Council:

**Route 1:**  Owner-occupied and private rented sector households with a gross annual income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

**Route 2:** Owner occupied and private sector householdshouseholds 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 reduction (reduction based on low income only, excludes single person discount). |
| **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.  The scheme established by Lichfield District Council is the Beat the Cold Energy Advice Service. Residents of Lichfield District may be eligible for this proxy if they have been supported by this service. This service aims to support vulnerable residents experiencing fuel poverty and/or extreme health related issues and are facing immediate financial difficulties, who are in need of support.NICE Guideline 6 underpins the work of Beat the Cold |
| **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) [Please note, proxy 7 is for supplier owned debt data and is listed here for  information only]. Households identified through energy supplier debt data. This route enables  obligated suppliers to use their own debt data to identify either non pre-payment meter  households (non-PPM), or pre-payment meter households (PPM)\*.  a. Non-PPM customers: These are customers who have been in debt for more than 13  weeks ending with the day on which the declaration is made, and are in a debt  repayment plan with their energy supplier or repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party  deductions.  b. PPM customers: Suppliers may also identify PPM households who:  · have either self-disconnected or received supplier Discretionary/Friendly credit  within the last 13 weeks ending with the day on which the declaration is made;  or  · are in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier; or  · repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party deductions.\* |

\* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

\* Proxy 7 cannot be used in combination with proxy 5 or proxy 6

**Route 3:** SAP bands D-G households that are Owner-occupied and private rented sector 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 adversely affected by living in a cold home. These health conditions must 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 'Owner-occupied and private rented sector households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. Suppliers and LAs can submit an application to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero where they have identified new methods to identify low-income and vulnerable households. Applications need to demonstrate a number of factors, including that the proposed methodology is more effective at identifying households in fuel poverty than the criterion offered under Routes 1 and 2.

Route 4 is applicable to ECO4 Flex only.

**Scheme Eligibility, Declaration and evidence check confirmation**

All potentially eligible households should apply through Lichfield District Council’s ‘Warmer Homes, Greener District Scheme’ 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:** Gemma Hill

**Job Title:** Senior Policy and Strategy Officer

**Telephone:** 01543 308000

**Email:** [PolicyandStrategy@lichfielddc.gov.uk](mailto:PolicyandStrategy@lichfielddc.gov.uk)

**CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature**

Lichfield District Council will administer the ECO4 Flex scheme according to the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2022 (ECO4 Order).

The Council will administer Great British Insulation Scheme Flex according to the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2023 (ECO4A Order).

The CEO/ dedicated responsible person of the Council will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO Flex and Great British Insulation Scheme Flex.The Council will notify Ofgem of households that declarations have been issued for via the declaration notification template.

All personal data collected or processed by **Lichfield District** Council and its ‘Warmer Homes, Greener District’ initiative for the purposes of ECO4 Flex or Great British Insulation Scheme Flex will be processed and stored in accordance with: the Council’s obligations under UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, the Council’s data protection policy, the Information Commissioner’s Office Data Sharing Code and other guidance, and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero guidance.

**Signature:** A picture containing athletic game, sport

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**Name:** Simon Fletcher

**Job Title:** CEO/ dedicated responsible person

**Date of signature:** 27/01/2025

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)