

## **Southampton City Council**

### **Statement of Intent for ECO4 Flexible Eligibility**

**Publication Date:** 6th September 2022

**Version number:** V1.0

**Published on web site:** <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/our-green-city/council-commitments/sustainable-energy/deals-contracts/>

This statement sets out Southampton 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 intends to link ECO4 Flex applications to its affordable warmth project, Southampton Healthy Homes, to ensure that residents receive additional advice and support from statutory, voluntary and health sector partners across the city.

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (Sol), on the 06/09/2022 to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the three available routes outlined below:

Note that properties will only be eligible for ECO4 flex if they meet the wider ECO4 eligibility criteria in respect of tenure, i.e., private domestic premises for which the pre-project Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) band is:

- D\*, E, F or G for owner-occupied homes (\*excluding Route 2 below), or
- E, F or G for privately rented homes.

**Route 1:** SAP bands D-G households with a gross annual household income of less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

**Route 2:** SAP bands E-G 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)** 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<sup>2</sup>:

- people with cardiovascular conditions,
- people with respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma),
- people with mental health conditions,
- people with disabilities,
- older people (65 and older),  
households with young children (from new-born to school age)
- pregnant women.

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

**Proxy 5)** A householder supported by Southampton City Council's Southampton Healthy Homes project (see below for details). This project supports low income and vulnerable households for the purposes of NICE Guidelines.

**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.

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

**Route 3:** SAP bands D-G households that 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance [NG6]: Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes | Recommendations (Recommendation 2) | <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6/chapter/1-Recommendations#recommendation-4-identify-people-at-risk-of-ill-health-from-living-in-a-cold-home> Excludes 'low income' proxy.

## Referrals

Installers may make referrals via the [ECO4 flex referral form](#)<sup>3</sup> subject to satisfactory completion of the Memorandum of Understanding and Data Sharing Agreement.

Installers may email [keepwarm@environmentcentre.com](mailto:keepwarm@environmentcentre.com) for more information.

The Council will also identify eligible households through its Southampton Healthy Homes affordable warmth project. The project is supported by statutory, voluntary and health sector partners across the city to reach the most vulnerable in the community.

Southampton City Council work in partnership with the Environment Centre (tEC) charity to deliver Southampton Healthy Homes. Full details are available [online](#)<sup>4</sup>.

The Southampton Healthy Homes team can be reached by:

- Freephone – 0800 804 8601 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)
- Email – [keepwarm@environmentcentre.com](mailto:keepwarm@environmentcentre.com)

## Shortfall Funding

The Council may be able to provide shortfall funding in the event that insufficient funding is available to cover the full cost of works, subject to household circumstances and relevant terms and conditions. This funding may be accessed through the Southampton Healthy Homes project. The Southampton Healthy Homes team can be reached by:

- Freephone – 0800 804 8601 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)
- Email – [keepwarm@environmentcentre.com](mailto:keepwarm@environmentcentre.com)

## Marketing

It is appreciated that Installers may wish to advertise the availability of ECO4 flex funding but Southampton City Council requires that Installers participating in the scheme do not claim to be procured by, or working with, Southampton City Council or the Southampton Healthy Homes project without prior express written permission. Similarly, use of logos associated with the council or Southampton Healthy Homes project is prohibited.

Households are free to choose their Installer and so Installers must not claim to be the only source of this funding nor make guarantees of full funding in advance of technical surveys and relevant funding applications.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://environmentcentre.com/southampton-city-council-ecoflex-eligibility/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/our-green-city/how-you-can-help/southampton-healthy-homes/>

## **Inappropriate Referrals or Marketing Behaviours**

If Southampton City Council (including the relevant Trading Standards team) believe that an Installer is acting inappropriately, including (but not limited to) submitting false applications or undertaking marketing activities that are not compliant with the above statement or Council's ['no cold calling' rules](#)<sup>5</sup> then the Council reserves the right to suspend applications from this Installer.

## **Declaration and evidence check confirmation**

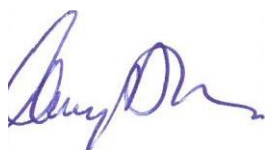
The following officers will be responsible for checking and verifying declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of the local authority:

Mary D'Arcy (Executive Director Communities, Culture & Homes)), Rosie Zambra (Head of Service Consumer Protection & Environmental Services) and Steven Hayes-Arter (Service Manager – Private Sector Housing & Port Health).

Southampton City Council will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process.

## **CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature**

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 and the Environment Centre (tEC)'s data protection policies, Information Commissioner's Office Data Sharing Code, and BEIS guidance.



Signature:

Name: Mary D'Arcy

Job Title: Executive Director – Communities, Culture & Homes

Date of signature: 05.09.2022

## **Disclaimer**

This document is subject to change following publication of any updated guidance by Ofgem and/or changes to the Council's approach to ECO4 flex.

## **Enquiries**

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.hants.gov.uk/business/tradingstandards/consumeradvice/coldcallingzones/zones/southampton>

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact the Environment Centre (tEC) at [keepwarm@environmentcentre.com](mailto:keepwarm@environmentcentre.com).