

## Appendix B:



### ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

**Local Authority: Powys County Council**

**Publication Date: 11/10/2022**

**Version number: V.1**

**Publication on web site: [www.powys.gov.uk](http://www.powys.gov.uk)**

This statement sets out **Powys** 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 **11/10/2022** 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 with an income 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>, or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019<sup>2</sup>, or the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2020, published by the Scottish Government.<sup>3</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. 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 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.

**Proxy 7)** Households identified through 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).

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/eco4-guidance-local-authority-administration>

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

<sup>2</sup> [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(full Index update with ranks\): 2019 | GOV.WALES](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

\* Note proxies 1 and 5 cannot be used together

Providing applicants meet criteria of '**The Warm Wales - Powys Energy Savings Scheme**' they subsequently qualify for ECO4 Flex utilising proxies 3 & 5 above.



**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. 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 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 exiting routes.

### **Declaration and Evidence Check Confirmation**

All potentially eligible households should apply directly to one of the approved ECO installers listed on the Warm Wales website to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme.

**Liabilities** - Powys County Council accept no responsibility or liability resulting from any negative consequence, damage or loss arising from the acceptance of an ECO FLEX grant. This includes efforts connected with the preparation, application, or survey prior to an installation or as a result of works delivered under the scheme. Powys County Council do not endorse any specific energy supplier, grant agent, installer or company connected to the application or installation of ECO flex grants or products. Any grievance or issue raised against grant works or application process, should be taken up with the installing party/agent/financier. Powys County Council's involvement in the scheme is limited to the declaration of eligibility for grant. Should you wish to have the declaration explained in further detail, please email - [privatesectorhousing@powys.gov.uk](mailto:privatesectorhousing@powys.gov.uk)

**Final decision** - The decision on whether a household receives a measure under flexible eligibility or other ECO funding streams will be made by the energy supplier or their agent/contractor. Qualification in the statement of intent or issuance of a declaration by Powys County Council will NOT guarantee installation of a measure, the final decision rests with the supplier.

### **Cost Associated with Measures**

Whilst some measures being grant funded will be free to the consumer at point of sale, others may only be partially grant funded and will require a contribution from the consumer



or agent to be delivered.

Any financial or contractual arrangement relating to the installation of a specific measure, home survey or service shall be at the discretion of the homeowner or occupier to accept or decline as they choose. Powys County Council will not be party to any such arrangements; this shall solely be between the client and any third party of their choice.

### **Governance**

The body to which any application for assessment prior to qualification under this Statement of Intent will need to be made shall be delegated to the Community Interest Company - Warm Wales. Powys Council no longer accepts applications direct.

If you wish to make an application for confirmation of grant eligibility, please contact directly one of the approved ECO installers listed on the Warm Wales website:

[www.warmwales.org.uk](http://www.warmwales.org.uk)

Warm Wales shall engage in scheme promotion and conduct vetting of applications via collection of evidential client information. Warm Wales will be solely responsible for referring successful applications to Powys Council for sign off. **Powys County Council** shall issue declaration certificates to eligible applicants.

Any 3rd party agent of a contractor with clients they wish to refer to the council will need to have said clients utilise the vetting services of Warm Wales and have those clients referred to the council via that organisation. The council will not be party to any such arrangement implemented between Warm Wales and any 3rd party agent of each independent contractor. Warm Wales shall select the installer and/or funder for all clients for whom they facilitate the application process for funding under ECO4.

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

**Name:** Julian Preece

**Job Title:** Housing Policy, Performance & Standards Manager

**Telephone:** 07795 602642

**Email:** [julian.preece@powys.gov.uk](mailto:julian.preece@powys.gov.uk)



Officers holding the following positions shall be empowered to sign declarations on behalf of Powys County Council - Housing Policy, Performance & Standards Manager, Housing & Communities Sustainability Officer, Housing Environmental Health Officer, Housing Service Improvement Officer.

### **Monitoring**

Information regarding the number of referrals made to the council by Warm Wales and declarations issued, shall be recorded by the council. Any further information would be held by the agent or contractor and submitted to BEIS/OFGEM separately.

### **General Data Protection Regulations & Privacy Notice**

In order to access ECO4 funding, personal data will need to be shared with 3rd parties by agents through which any application is made. Powys Council are not able to process or handle applications without involvement of said 3rd parties. The 3rd parties not the Council, are responsible for sourcing ECO4 funding and arranging installation of measures. For this reason, Powys County Council does not consider itself to be the Data Controller in this scenario because it is not the body responsible for offering or delivering the grant. Powys County Council will process all data submitted as part of the scheme in accordance with data protection legislation. Please refer to Powys County Council's Housing Privacy Notice: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/7132/Housing-Privacy-Notice>.

### **CEO or Dedicated Responsible Person Mandatory Signature**

**Powys County Council** will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. 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 data protection policy, Information Commissioner's Office Data Sharing Code, and BEIS guidance.

**Name:** Cllr. Mathew Dorrance

**Job Title:** Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for a Fairer Powys

**Date of signature:** 11/10/2022

For general enquires relating to this SOI, please contact: [louise.page@powys.gov.uk](mailto:louise.page@powys.gov.uk)

