Statement of Intent for ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme

Telford & Wrekin Council ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: Telford & Wrekin Council

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This statement sets out **Telford & Wrekin Council's** flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) and Great British Insulation schemes which run until 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 Great British Insulation Scheme will support the ECO4 scheme in the delivery of predominantly single measures targeted at a wider range of households.

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" and "Great British Insulation Scheme Flex".

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (SoI), on the **12/05/2025** to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below. The tick boxes can be used to indicate to households which routes the council is using:

☒ **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 rented sector 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)[1]
Proxy 2) A person living at the premises is entitled to a Council Tax reduction on the grounds of low-income.
Proxy 3) A person living at the premises is considered to be vulnerable to the cold under the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance NG6: Recommendation 2, for a reason other than their low-income[2]*
Proxy 4) A child living at the premises is eligible for free school meals, due to low-income[3]
Proxy 5) A person living at the premises is supported by a scheme established by the LA/DA that is named and described within their Statement of Intent and established to support people living on a low-income and considered vulnerable to the cold under NICE Guideline NG6. ***Please note this proxy is currently not available***
Proxy 6) A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizens Advice or Citizens Advice Scotland, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and/or 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)*.

[1] Published at https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019. The deciles are published in "File 7: all ranks, deciles and scores for the indices of deprivation, and population denominators".
[2] https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6/chapter/1-Recommendations#recommendation-2-ensure-there-is-a-singlepointofcontact-health-and-housing-referral-service-for
[3] Under section 512ZB(4) of the Education Act 1996 or section 53 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980

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:** Owner-occupied and private rented sector households that have been identified by either a person registered in the General Practitioner Register, 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.

☒ **Route 4 [applicable to ECO4 Flex only]:** 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 identify households in fuel poverty than the criterion offered under Routes 1 and 2.

Scheme eligibility

All potentially eligible households should apply through **Marches Energy Agency (acting on behalf of Telford & Wrekin Council**) by emailing ecoflex@mea.org.uk or by contacting one of their approved ECO / Great British Insulation Scheme installers, if a list of approved installers is available, to see if they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme.

On behalf of the Council, **Marches Energy Agency** will be responsible for checking and verifying declaration requests and associated evidence submitted. They can be contacted at Marches Energy Agency, The Pump House, Coton Hill, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 2DP Telephone: 0800 677 1952 or by email ecoflex@mea.org.uk

An LA officer (not a 3rd party working on behalf of an LA) will be responsible for checking, and verifying evidence, and issuing declarations. For any general enquiries relating to this SoI please contact:

Team: Private Sector Housing – Affordable Warmth

Telephone: 01952 380000

Email: energy.efficiency@telford.gov.uk

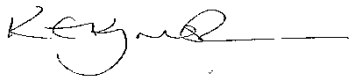
CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

The **Telford & Wrekin 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 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 **Telford & Wrekin Council** and **Marches Energy Agency** 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: 

Name: Katherine Kynaston

Job Title: Director of Housing, Employment & Infrastructure

Date of signature: 12 May 2025