

## **Energy Company Obligation: Help to Heat**

### **Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent**

#### **Local authority:**

Warm & Well is managed by Severn Wye Energy Agency on behalf of the Local Authorities in Gloucestershire:

- Gloucester City Council
- Forest of Dean District Council
- Stroud District Council
- Cotswolds District council
- Tewkesbury Borough Council
- Cheltenham Borough Council

Stroud District Council has been legally appointed lead authority for the Warm & Well programme and as such will take the lead on the Statement of Intent and the assignment of Declarations. All other Local Authorities have delegated powers to Stroud District as evidenced in Section 3 Governance.

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**Version:** 3.0

**URL:** <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/energy-efficiency>

#### **1) Introduction**

The local authorities of Gloucestershire welcome the introduction of Flexible Eligibility (FE) and intend to utilise it for the purposes of reducing fuel poverty in the area.

The local authorities of Gloucestershire are committed to achieving affordable warmth and alleviating fuel poverty. Together with South Gloucestershire Council, the local authorities have displayed their commitment in this field through funding the Warm & Well scheme since 2001. The Warm & Well scheme is a key delivery mechanism as part of Severn Wye Energy Agency, to reduce fuel poverty, reduce excess winter deaths, increase rates of retrofit of energy efficiency measures, and stimulate the local economy. In 2017, the local authorities extended their commitment to the scheme by a further three years, to fund the project until 2020.

The local authorities strive to enable vulnerable people to live affordably and comfortably in their own homes, independently for longer, thus reducing costs to social care budgets. This Statement of Intent covering just Gloucestershire will assist in meeting government targets in carbon emissions, as well as increasing the comfort of residents in their homes, provide savings to the NHS and reduce the rates of fuel poverty.

It should be noted that the final decision on whether any individual household will benefit from energy saving improvements rests with obligated energy suppliers or their contractors. Inclusion in a Declaration of Eligibility issued by the local authority to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures. The final decision will depend on i) identification of measures eligible under Help to Heat ii) the supplier's assessment of the cost-effectiveness of installing measures in relation to achieving its obligation, and iii) whether the supplier has achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their Energy Company Obligation targets.

In identifying households as eligible under flexible eligibility, Warm & Well is seeking to enable residents to benefit from funding and will seek the consent of households to including them in local authority declarations. All the authorities expects any obligated energy supplier, or contractor working on their behalf, comply with the Data Protection Act, to fully follow Ofgem requirements for the Energy Company Obligation Help to Heat, and to act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards of any works that may take place. These are covered in a separate memorandum of understanding between the Council and the obligated party.

## **2) How the authorities under Warm & Well intends to identify eligible households**

The Warm & Well scheme has been running across Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire since 2001 and aims to improve energy efficiency in the home and reduce the risk of fuel poverty and associated health problems by addressing central issues such as the links between energy efficiency, affordable warmth, cold living conditions and health risks and condensation damp related respiratory illness.

Warm & Well on behalf of the local authorities in Gloucestershire will identify households that may benefit from flexible eligibility. The householder has to be a Private Sector tenant or an owner occupier.

Warm & Well on behalf of the local authorities will keep the criteria below under review, in relation to the number of referrals made, delivery of installed measures and the practices of other authorities.

Residents will be eligible for Flexible Eligibility where they meet the following criteria:

- I. Low income, High Costs but not in receipt of benefits
- II. Low income, High Costs and Vulnerability to Cold
- III. Living in areas of high deprivation, but not in receipt of benefits
- IV. Solid Wall insulation (SWI) 'in-fill'

## I. LOW INCOME + HIGH COSTS (EPC)

Households must have an annual income under these thresholds **AND** an EPC rating of E, F, G (or equivalent) to be eligible.

Definition: Low Income thresholds (disposable income after paid rent or mortgage. All income from all sources savings and investments, pensions, all benefits incl. housing benefit). Low income threshold taken from BEIS guidance “Energy Company Obligation – Flexible Eligibility”, April 2017

Household composition	Annual household income <sup>1</sup>	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

### **AND**

An **EPC OF E,F,G** (where there is no EPC rating for the property then use guidance below). Households that reach or exceed a score of 80 points will be deemed to be high cost.

Question	Response	Score
How many bedrooms are there in the home?	1	<b>0</b>
	2	<b>10</b>
	3	<b>35</b>
	4	<b>55</b>
	5	<b>70</b>
Are energy payments made by Direct Debit?	Yes	<b>0</b>
	No	<b>15</b>
What type of house is it?	Semi detached	<b>30</b>
	Detached	<b>30</b>
	Terrace (mid and end)	<b>20</b>
	Flat	<b>10</b>
	Bungalow	<b>30</b>
	Park home	<b>45</b>
Was the home built before 1964?	Yes	<b>5</b>
	No	<b>0</b>
What is the main heating fuel?	Gas	<b>0</b>
	Electricity	<b>20</b>
	Oil/LPG	<b>20</b>
	Other	<b>15</b>

## II. EXPANDED LOW INCOME + HIGH COSTS (EPC) + VULNERABILITY

Households must have an annual income under these thresholds **AND** an EPC rating of D, E, F, G (or equivalent) **AND** a 'Vulnerability' (listed below) to be eligible.

The income threshold figures below are based on additional costs required for heating an inefficient property during the day and living with a health condition. Based on: difference between BEIS guidance low income threshold and NHS low income scheme threshold; and factor of 1.0625 on original BEIS low income threshold figures based on calculated mean extra cost of heating household for longer periods using Sutherland figures.

Household composition	Annual household income	Monthly household income Equivalent
1 adult (18 years and over)	£15,000	£1,250
and 1 child	£18,000	£1,500
and 2 children	£21,000	£1,750
and three children	£24,000	£2,000
and four or more children	£27,000	£2,250
2 adults (18 years and over)	£21,000	£1,750
and 1 child	£24,000	£2,000
and 2 children	£27,000	£2,250
and three children	£30,000	£2,500
and four or more children	£33,000	£2,750

### **AND**

An **EPC OF D,E,F,G** (where there is no EPC rating for the property then use guidance below). Households that reach or exceed a score of 65 points will be deemed to be high cost.

Question	Response	Score
How many bedrooms are there in the home?	1	<b>0</b>
	2	<b>10</b>
	3	<b>35</b>
	4	<b>55</b>
	5	<b>70</b>
Are energy payments made by Direct Debit?	Yes	<b>0</b>
	No	<b>15</b>
What type of house is it?	Semi detached	<b>30</b>
	Detached	<b>30</b>
	Terrace (mid and end)	<b>20</b>
	Flat	<b>10</b>
	Bungalow	<b>30</b>
	Park home	<b>45</b>
Was the home built before 1964?	Yes	<b>5</b>
	No	<b>0</b>
What is the main heating fuel?	Gas	<b>0</b>
	Electricity	<b>20</b>
	Oil/LPG	<b>20</b>
	Other	<b>15</b>

**AND**

Vulnerability defined as:	Aged over 60, and particularly those over 75
	Children under 5 and pregnant mothers
	Respiratory disease (COPD, asthma)
	Cardiovascular disease (e.g. ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease)
	Moderate to severe mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder)
	Substance misusers
	Dementia
	Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME)
	Cancer
	Limited mobility
	Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)
	Severe learning disabilities
	Autoimmune and immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. lupus, MS, diabetes, HIV)

### **III. IMD AREAS**

Households located in LSOAs in the lowest 25% of Index of Multiple Deprivation Rank will be considered as eligible for funding.

Local authorities will also be able to nominate further areas where additional need has been identified.

### **IV. SOLID WALL INSULATION (SWI) “IN-FILL” PROJECTS**

To increase the economies of scale of SWI projects, solid wall homes which are not ‘fuel poor’ will be eligible for Flexible ECO funding, where they are co-located with a minimum percentage of households assessed to be fuel poor or LIVC.

Criteria will be:

- Semi-detached houses/bungalows – at least 50% of properties in an SWI project must be FP or LIVC
- Same terrace – at least 66% off properties in an SWI project must be FP or LIVC
- Same building – at least 66% off properties in an SWI project must be FP or LIVC
- Adjacent properties - at least 66% off properties in an SWI project must be FP or LIVC

### 3) Governance

#### *Responsible officer*

The SOI will be signed on behalf of all the local authorities by the Strategic Head of Development Services of Stroud Council that in turn leads the Steering Committee for the Warm & Well scheme.

Name: Barry Wyatt

Job title:

Telephone: 01453 754210

Email: [barry.wyatt@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:barry.wyatt@stroud.gov.uk)



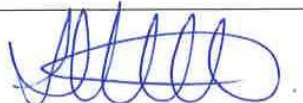
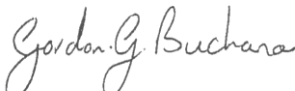

Declarations will be signed by the lead officer of the Warm & Well steering group on behalf of the local authorities.

Name: Maria Hickman

Job Title: Housing Renewal Manager

E-mail: [Maria.Hickman@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:Maria.Hickman@stroud.gov.uk)

List of the designated officers at the time of the declaration hereby giving consent to Stroud District Council to make determination on whether a household meets the eligibility criteria of this scheme:

Local Authority	Name	Job Title	E-mail	Signature
Gloucestershire City Council	Philip Thorneywork	Housing Team Leader (interim)	<a href="mailto:philip.thorneywork@gloucester.gov.uk">philip.thorneywork@gloucester.gov.uk</a>	
Forest of Dean District Council	Michael Hinchcliffe	Disabled Facilities Grant Officer	<a href="mailto:michael.hinchcliffe@fdean.gov.uk">michael.hinchcliffe@fdean.gov.uk</a>	
Cotswolds District Council	Sarah Whitcombe	Housing Team Lead	<a href="mailto:Sarah.Whitcombe@WESTOXON.GOV.UK">Sarah.Whitcombe@WESTOXON.GOV.UK</a>	
Tewkesbury Borough Council	Gordon Buchanan	Environmental Health Manager	<a href="mailto:gordon.buchanan@tewkesbury.gov.uk">gordon.buchanan@tewkesbury.gov.uk</a>	
Cheltenham Borough Council	Mark Nelson	Enforcement Manager	<a href="mailto:mark.nelson@cheltenham.gov.uk">mark.nelson@cheltenham.gov.uk</a>	

#### **4) Evidence, monitoring and reporting**

Warm & Well will capture and store all relevant information during the initial enquiry to determine the relevant course of action for the household. Warm & Well will inform residents that they may be required to provide evidence of income and medical/health conditions and other information such as any relevant health conditions at a later date to deter fraudulent claims.

Auditing of eligibility of claimants will be assessed by a random sample of households on a post installation basis.

Warm & Well will provide key information. The data above will include details of households assessed, how many were deemed eligible and ineligible, and how many received heating and insulation improvements.

All households for whom Declarations were made will be contacted three months post installation.

#### **5) Signatures**



Barry Wyatt

Director of Development Services