



Pembrokeshire County Council
Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent
(v 1.2)

This statement sets out Pembrokeshire County Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the ECO: Help to Heat programme October 2018 - March 2022. It aims to support households living in Pembrokeshire who are most likely to experience fuel poverty and those vulnerable to the effects of a cold home.

Introduction - Pembrokeshire County Council (the Council) welcomes the introduction this year of Flexible Eligibility and intends to utilise it for the purposes of reducing fuel poverty within the county. The Council has worked for many years to improve homes across Pembrokeshire most recently on the improvement of energy efficiency and reduction in fuel poverty.

What is flexible eligibility - Local Authorities working with Energy suppliers obligated under ECO have the opportunity to extend eligibility criteria for energy efficiency measures to households not covered by existing schemes of support.

Targeting households - This funding is only available for private owner occupiers and private rented tenants. Qualification of flexible eligibility in Pembrokeshire will be determined by the criteria listed below under Questions 1 and 2 and will require a signed declaration by the property owner.

Question 1 Qualifying Criteria

To qualify:

- i) the property must have a rating of **D, E, F or G on an EPC** or
- ii) the property must have a score of **10 points or greater** in Table 1 below;

Table 1 - Property Condition

Property Details	Type	Points	Tick box	Score
Number of Bedrooms	1	1		
	2	2		
	3+	3		
Number of people living in the property	1	1		
	2	2		
	3+	3		
How much Loft Insulation is present	None	5		
	Up to 150mm	3		
	150mm and above	1		
What is the Wall Type	System built	5		
	Solid stone/brick	3		

	Cavity construction /Unknown	1		
How much Wall insulation is present	External	1		
	Internal	1		
	Cavity	2		
	None	5		
	Not known	2		
What Heating fuel is used within the property	Mains gas	1		
	Oil	2		
	LPG	3		
	Electric	5		
	Solid Fuel	5		
Is there a Central Heating system within the property and what age is this	Less than 10 years old	1		
	Over ten years old	3		
	Broken system	5		
	No system	5		
			Total	

Question 2 - Client Vulnerability & Fuel Poverty

In order to demonstrate that the householders are at a greater risk to the effects of living in a cold home, the Council will adopt the following approach.

A household will be eligible:

- i) under Fuel Poverty if they spend more than 10% of their income on household fuel costs; or
- ii) The NICE guideline 'Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes' states that: a wide range of people are at greater risk to the cold. This is either because of a medical condition, such as heart disease; a disability that, for instance, stops people moving around to keep warm, or makes them more likely to develop chest infections; or personal circumstances, such as being unable to afford to keep warm enough.

Households will therefore also be eligible if they include people with the following, which reflects the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) 2015 guidance on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes.

A member of the household is/has:

- i. Aged over 60 (proof of age necessary)
- ii. Children under 5 and those in primary and secondary school education or a pregnant mother
- iii. Respiratory disease (COPD, asthma)
- iv. Cardiovascular disease (e.g. ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease)
- v. Moderate to severe mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder)

- vi. Substance misusers
- vii. Dementia
- viii. Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME)
- ix. Cancer
- x. Limited mobility
- xi. Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)
- xii. Severe learning disabilities
- xiii. Autoimmune and immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. lupus, MS, diabetes, HIV)

A signed declaration by a doctor or health practitioner is required to confirm any health related issues iii – xiii if no other evidence available.

Referral Routes – The scheme will be marketed through the Council's website, marketing material and through normal contact with residents. Details of the scheme will also be provided to other stakeholders working with vulnerable households. Properties may be identified by Contractors (see below) through publically available EPC register data. Households that self-identify to the Council will be provided with contact details of the Contractors who will be responsible for completing eligibility questionnaires and property surveys.

Qualifying measures - The energy efficiency measures that can be installed in eligible properties include, but may not be limited to, new central heating systems and upgrades and insulation. The Council does not currently support solid wall insulation projects for 'in-fill' where households are not eligible under the scheme.

Contractors - Energy suppliers or agents of energy suppliers involved in flexible eligibility surveys and works identified must enter into a service level agreement with Pembrokeshire County Council over the administration of eligibility which will include a Data Processing Agreement. Energy suppliers or agents of energy suppliers will comply with the General Data Protection Regulations in accordance with Ofgem requirements and act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards.

Final decision - The decision on whether a household receives a measure under flexible eligibility or other ECO funding streams, and whether the measure is installed free of charge or requires a financial contribution by the household, will be made by the energy suppliers or their agents/contractors. Qualification under the statement of Intent or in a Declaration by the Council will not guarantee installation of any measures, as the final decision will lie with the supplier.

Governance

The officers below will be responsible for signing Declarations on behalf of the local Authority:

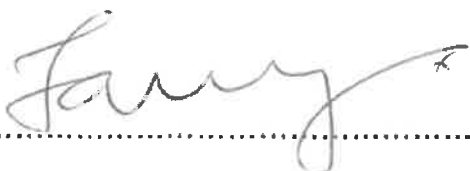
- i) Andrew Davies-Wrigley – Private Sector Housing & Housing Strategy Manager, and/or
- ii) Philip Jackson – Senior Renewals Officer, and/or
- iii) Other delegated officers.

Monitoring

The number of households that are contacted and eligible for ECO Flexible Eligibility together with the number of ECO Flexible Eligibility funded measures installed and the number of homes improved will be recorded by Pembrokeshire County Council. Data collected from application forms may be required for future monitoring and feedback on the scheme which may include contacting households directly. Any such information will be retained for a maximum of 3 years from the end of the scheme.

Signature

Signed:


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Date: 28/03/19

Print Name: Ian Westley

Position: Chief Executive
Pembrokeshire County Council