

1.1 Name of the Local Authority

Wigan Council

1.2 Local Authority you are acting on behalf of

N/A

1.3 Date of publication

22/08/2018

1.4 Version number

2

1.5 Publication on website

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Docs/PDF/Council/Strategies-Plans-and-Policies/Housing/Wigan-Council-ECO-Flexible-Eligibility-Statement-of-Intent.pdf>

2.1 Introduction

Wigan Council aims to use Flexible Eligibility to increase Energy Efficiency and reduce Fuel Poverty in the borough through its Affordable Warmth Access Referral Mechanism (AWARM) and area based Solid Wall Insulation schemes. The final decision on whether a household receives Energy Company Obligation (ECO) measures is made by the energy suppliers or their agents / contractors. Inclusion in a Local Authority Declaration to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures, as the final decision will depend on (i) the survey carried out by suppliers' agents / contractors and installation costs calculated; (ii) the energy savings that can be achieved for a property; and (iii) whether suppliers have achieved their ECO targets or require further measures to meet their ECO targets.

2.2 How the Local Authority intends to identify eligible households

Wigan Council intends to identify households that may benefit from the installation of measures under Flexible Eligibility in line with the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) guidance on targeting. A Wigan resident must meet either criteria a) or b) to be eligible and have savings of **less than £10,000**.

a) Criteria for identifying households in Fuel Poverty (FP): LIHC

- i) Where the council has reasonable evidence that the total household income meets the categories below.
- ii) Lives in an EPC rated property E-G or has energy bills of more than £1,400 per year*.

Low Income

Household composition	Gross Annual household income	Monthly household income Equivalent
1 adult (18 years and over)	£16,500	£1,375
and 1 child	£21,750	£1,813
and 2 children	£27,000	£2,250
and three or more children	£32,250	£2,688
2 adults (18 years and over)	£24,750	£2,063
and 1 child	£30,000	£2,500
and 2 children	£35,250	£2,938
and three or more children	£39,500	£3,292

(The above table has been formulated following guidance from ALEO Association of local energy Officers)

High Fuel Costs

High Fuel costs can be determined by obtaining an EPC band for properties and are defined as eligible if they have an **EPC band of E, F, or G.**

EPC data is available through <https://epc.opendatacommunities.org>

BEIS analysis shows that E, F, and G rated homes have a high probability of being defined as 'High Cost' under the Fuel Poverty definition.

*** Evidence of high energy bills above £1,400 per year or EPC rating E-G can be used to meet eligibility.**

Criteria b) Low income and vulnerability to the cold (LIVC)

- i) Where the council has reasonable evidence that the total household income meets the categories below.
- ii) And any **one** of the listed vulnerabilities

Household composition	Gross Annual household income	Monthly household income Equivalent
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1 adult (18 years and over)	£16,500	£1,375
and 1 child	£21,750	£1,813
and 2 children	£27,000	£2,250
and three or more children	£32,250	£2,688
2 adults (18 years and over)	£24,750	£2,063
and 1 child	£30,000	£2,500
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Full list of eligible illnesses and vulnerabilities (any **ONE** of the below)

- Long Term Health Conditions
- Cardiovascular condition (incl. coronary heart disease, stroke, hypertension, transient ischemic attack)
- Respiratory condition (incl. COPD, asthma)
- Neurological or neurobiological condition (incl. dementia, Parkinson's disease, MS, epilepsy, fibromyalgia, ME)
- Musculoskeletal conditions (incl. arthritis, limited mobility, recently attended hospital due to a fall)
- Blood conditions (incl. Sickle cell disease, thalassemia)
- Cancer
- Moderate to severe mental illness (incl. schizophrenia bipolar disorder and depression where receiving regular treatment)
- Severe learning disabilities
- Autoimmune or immunodeficiency diseases (incl. lupus, diabetes, HIV)
- Terminally ill
- Other illness exacerbated by cold (confirmed by GP)

Vulnerability

- On the Priority Services register of partner supplier
- Core Group WHD recipient
- Victim of domestic abuse
- Recent bereavement
- Moving in and out of homelessness
- Recent immigrant or asylum seeker
- Physical or sensory disability

Criteria C) Details of scheme requirements for Solid Wall Insulation “in-fill” projects:

Where potential solid wall insulation works have been identified, households will be supported to take advantage of ECO funding for solid wall insulation under the “in-fill” category as set out in the guidance issued by BEIS in April 2017, and subject to the rules and restrictions set out therein, particularly in relation to the minimum number of FP/LIVC households being met.

2.3 Acting on behalf of another Local Authority

N/A

2.4 Joint statement of intent

N/A

2.5 Governance

The person responsible for signing Local Authority Declarations on behalf of Wigan Council is:

Emma McNamara, Service Manager- Age Well, Adult Social Care and Health,
Wigan Council, PO Box 100, Wigan, WN1 3DS
E-mail: public.health@wigan.gov.uk

The Affordable Warmth for Wigan working group will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under Flexible Eligibility.

2.6 Referrals

- a) Referrals from individuals and organisations will be routed through AWARM.
- b) Information will flow from AWARM to obligated suppliers via their agents /contractors.

2.7 Evidence, monitoring and reporting

- a) Data on individuals and their homes will be collected and monitored by AWARM to ensure the effective targeting of relevant households.
- b) AWARM will monitor which households of those targeted have subsequently received a measure.
- c) Information is reported to the AWARM commissioners at quarterly contract management meetings.
- d) AWARM commissioners will audit the above data collection and monitoring mechanism.
- e) Documentary evidence, independent verification and data matching will be used to deter, prevent and detect fraud.

2.8 Signature



Professor Kate Ardern
Director of Public Health
Wigan Council