



## CONWY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### ENERGY COMPANY OBLIGATION STATEMENT OF INTENT – ECO3

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is a government energy efficiency scheme to help reduce the carbon emission and reduce the number of households in fuel poverty. ECO Flexible Eligibility has been introduced to enable us as a local authority to engage with the energy companies on a new flexible criteria approach, to enable the energy suppliers to meet their obligations and to support households within fuel poverty or with occupants on low incomes and vulnerable to the effects of cold homes.

The final decision on whether a household receives an ECO measures is made by the energy suppliers or their installers/contractors. Please note that inclusion in a Declaration made by Conwy County Borough Council to a supplier will not guarantee ECO Funding, as the final decision will depend on;

- i) Survey carried out by suppliers installers/contractors and installation costs calculated
- ii) The energy savings that can be achieved for a property, and
- iii) Whether suppliers have achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their ECO targets.

ECO funding may not cover the full cost of measures, however households must be informed of any contribution required and agree in advance before any work is carried out.

CCBC expects any obligated energy supplier, or contractor to comply with the Data Protection Act and to follow Ofgem requirements for the Energy Company Obligation Help to Heat. They would also need to act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards of any works that may take place.

#### 2. HOW WE INTEND TO IDENTIFY ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS

CCBC will target the following;

- i) Households with low income and poor energy performing homes
- ii) Households with low income and have health conditions, being particularly vulnerable to cold

Flexible eligibility only covers private tenure households. Furthermore, there is a restriction on private rented properties, to reflect the separate landlord requirements to meet the minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector. As such only solid wall insulation and renewables will be eligible for EPC band F and G properties. Social housing – as defined in the ECO Order is excluded from LA-Flex.

The qualification criteria are listed below and will require a signed declaration by the property owner.

### 3. QUALIFYING CRITERIA

Households must satisfy criteria **i) or ii)** to qualify.

**i) Households with high costs and low income;**

The property must have an energy rating of **E, F or G** on a recent **Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)** or have a score of greater than or equal to 15 points in **Table 1** below.

**and**

Be either a household in fuel poverty (spending 10% of household income on their fuel cost) or on a low income (as determined from the Annual Household Income) see **Table 2** below

**Or;**

**ii) Households that are vulnerable to the effects of a cold home and low income;**

Vulnerability is determined by a member of the household meeting the criteria, see **Table 3** below

**and**

Be either a household in fuel poverty (spending 10% of household income on their fuel cost) or on a low income (as determined from the Annual Household Income) see **Table 2** below.

#### 3.1. Household with High Cost

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	3		
	Up to 150mm	2		
	250mm and above	1		
What is the Wall Type	System built	3		
	Solid stone/brick	2		
	Cavity construction	1		
How much Wall insulation is present	External	1		
	Internal	1		
	Cavity	2		
	None	3		
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		
<b>TOTAL</b>				

### 3.2. Identifying low income households

Conwy County Borough Council will use the table issued in the guidance for identifying the low income households (BEIS ECO3 LA Flex Guidance) as detailed below;

<b>1 Adult</b>	£ 9,300
and 1 child	£ 12,200
and 2 child	£ 15,000
and 3 child	£ 18,000
and 4+ child	£ 21,000
<b>2 Adults</b>	£ 15,200
and 1 child	£ 18,200
and 2 child	£ 21,100
and 3 child	£ 24,100
and 4+ child	£ 26,800

Income here is defined as the household's disposable income after they have paid their rent or mortgage. This comprises income from all sources, such as net earnings (after tax), income from savings and investments, pensions, all benefits (including housing benefit), and net council tax payments.

### 3.3. Identifying vulnerability to cold

It is necessary to demonstrate that the householders are at a greater risk to the effects of living in a cold home. CCBC will adopt the following approach.

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.

CCBC will target households containing 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.

<b>Table 3 – Client Vulnerability</b>	
<b>A member of the household is/has</b>	
1	Aged over 60 (proof of age necessary)
2	Children under 5, in education or a pregnant mother
3	Respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)
4	Cardiovascular conditions (e.g. ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease)
5	Moderate to severe mental illness or conditions (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder)
6	Substance misusers
7	Dementia
8	Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME)
9	Terminally ill / Cancer
10	People with disabilities
11	Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)
12	Severe learning disabilities
13	Autoimmune and immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. lupus, MS, diabetes, HIV)
14	People with addictions
15	People who have attended hospital due to a fall
16	Recent immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees (if living in private tenure)
17	People who move in and out of homelessness

***A signed declaration by a doctor or health practitioner will be required to confirm health related issues 3 - 13.***

To qualify as being vulnerable to cold, households must have met at least one of the above health conditions. Any referral received that does not meet the above criteria will be considered by CCBC on a case by case basis.

#### **Solid Wall Insulation “in-fill” projects**

Where potential works have been identified households will be supported to take advantage of funding for solid wall insulation under “in-fill” category as set out in the ECO 3 Guidance.

#### **4 GOVERNANCE**

The officers below will be responsible for signing declarations on behalf of the local authority.

- ***Ivor Jones - Housing Improvements Manager***
- ***Esyllt Hughes - Housing Improvements Technical Surveyor***

***Email: [hsg.financial.assistance@conwy.gov.uk](mailto:hsg.financial.assistance@conwy.gov.uk)***

***Telephone: 01492 574 641***

***Note: Please allow 14 days for the declarations to be signed.***

#### **5 REFERRALS**

From time to time referrals may come from various sources that are not currently defined.

#### **6 EVIDENCE, MONITORING AND REPORTING**

Information will be recorded on the number of referrals made to CCBC for ECO Flexible Eligibility and will be included in their annual performance reports to the Housing Team.

Information will also be recorded on the type and number of measures funded and installed to eligible households under this scheme, the value of those measures and estimates of the anticipated financial and/or carbon savings they are expected to make.

## **7 SIGNATURE**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iwan Davies', written in a cursive style.

**Iwan Davies, Chief Executive  
Conwy County Borough Council**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019**