**Havant Borough Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent (SoI)**

**Local Authority name:** Havant Borough Council (HBC)

**Publication Date:** 08/11/2024

**Version number:** V.1

**Publication on web site :** [*Energy strategies and grants - Overview | Havant Borough Council*](https://www.havant.gov.uk/climate-change-and-environment/energy-strategies-and-grants/energy-strategies-and-grants-overview)

This statement sets out Havant Borough Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme from April 2022 – 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 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”.

HBC welcomes the introduction of the ECO4 Flex eligibility routes as it helps the Council achieve its plans to improve the homes of those in fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold.

HBC is publishing this Statement of Intent (SoI), on the 08/11/2024 to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below.

**Route 1:** SAP bands D-G owner-occupied and private rented sector E-G households with an income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region

**Route 2:** SAP bands E-G for owner-occupied households 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](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835115/IoD2019_Statistical_Release.pdf))

**Proxy 2)** Householders receiving a Council Tax reduction (based on low income only).

**Proxy 3)** Householders vulnerable to living in a cold home as identified in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance. Only one from the list can be used, excludes the proxy ‘low income.’

**Proxy 4)** A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income.

**Proxy 5)** A householder supported by the Switched On Havant scheme or by the Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) scheme – both of which support low income and vulnerable households.

**Proxy 6)** A household referred to the LA (Local Authorities) for support by their energy supplier or Citizens’ Advice, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and gas bills.

\*Note proxies 1 & 3 cannot be used together

**Route 3:** SAP bands D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households that have been identified by either a person registered in the General Practitioner Register, a Scottish Health Board, a Welsh Health Board, an NHS Foundation Trust, or an NHS Trust as vulnerable, with an occupant whose health conditions may be impacted further by living in a cold home. These health conditions may be cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility related.

**Route 4:** SAP band D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. Suppliers and LAs can submit an application to ESNZ where they have identified a low income and vulnerable household, who are not already eligible under the existing routes.

**Marketing**

It is understood that installers may wish to advertise the availability of ECO4 funding to residents, but HBC require that installers participating in the scheme do not claim to be procured by, or working with, HBC, Switched On Havant, AgilityEco or HBC-run schemes without express written permission. Similarly, use of logos associate with these parties is prohibited.

Householders are free to choose their installer and so installers must not claim to be the only source of this funding or make guarantees of full funding in advance of technical surveys and relevant funding applications.

**Declaration and evidence check confirmation**

Installers must make applications on behalf of eligible households to Portsmouth City Council’s ECO4 Flex Administration Service managed by AgilityEco. To arrange to make an application please contact [portsmouthsoi@agilityeco.co.uk](mailto:portsmouthsoi@agilityeco.co.uk). AgilityEco will ensure that the household can benefit from the ECO Flex scheme and will also assess them for eligibility for any other relevant programme.

The officer below will be responsible for checking and verifying declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of the local authority:

Name: Gareth Williams

Job Title: Head of Energy Services

Telephone: 023 9284 1947

Email: [energysaving@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:energysaving@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

**CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature**

Portsmouth City Council will administer the scheme according to the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2022 (ECO4 Order) and will identify eligible households via Ofgem’s application process. The CEO of the Council will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO4 Flex.

The eligibility information will be stored securely in line with the PCC’s data protection policy, Information Commissioner’s Office Data Sharing Code, and ESNZ guidance.

Signature:

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Description automatically generated

Name: James Hill

Job Title: Director of Housing Neighbourhoods and Building Services

Date of signature: 03/07/2023

For any general enquires relating to this SoI, please contact [energysaving@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:energysaving@portsmouthcc.gov.uk).

**Delegation of ECO4 Flex Process to Portsmouth City Council**

**Havant Borough Council**

Portsmouth City Council is granted authority by Havant Borough Council (HBC) to carry out the Energy Company Obligation Flexible Eligible Administration Service in the Havant administrative area. Portsmouth City Council (through its partner AgilityEco) will assess applications made to HBC for Flexible Eligibility declarations in order to access Energy Company Obligation funding for fuel poor and vulnerable households. Portsmouth City Council (through its partner AgilityEco) will then produce draft declarations for HBC for any of these applications that meet the criteria as per the SOI.

Portsmouth City Council will review the declarations as assessed by AgilityEco and if deemed appropriate may sign off declarations that are confirmed as eligible by AgilityEco, undertake an audit of a percentage of applications and monitor outcomes of the Project. Each declaration will have a unique reference number (URN) that will represent the Portsmouth area's nine-digit Office for National Statistics (ONS) code.

Signature: 

Name: Alex Robinson

Job Title: Executive Head of Place

Date of signature: 30/06/2023