

Statement of Intent for ECO 4

Stafford Borough Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority: Stafford Borough Council

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This statement sets out Stafford Borough Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme from April 2023 - 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 identify fuel poor and vulnerable households who may benefit from heating and energy saving measures is referred to as "ECO4 Flex". The Council 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.

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (Sol), on 03/04/23 to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

Route One: SAP bands D-G owner-occupied households 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 Two: 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) ¹ , or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 ² , or the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2020, published by the Scottish Government ³ .
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Proxy 2) Household receiving a Council Tax rebate (rebates based on low income only).
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Proxy 3) Household 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'.
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Proxy 4) A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income

Proxy 5) A householder supported by a LA run scheme, that has been named and described by the LA as supporting low income and vulnerable households for the purposes of NICE Guidelines.

¹ [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

² [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(full Index update with ranks\): 2019 | GOV.WALES](http://gov.wales)

³ [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Stafford Borough Council are working with Beat the Cold to facilitate Warmer Homes Stafford which supports residents in Stafford who are vulnerable to cold homes under NICE guidance. These health conditions may be cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility related.

This is because the Council has identified a positive correlation between households who suffer from long-term health conditions and living off a low-income, with living in poorly insulated homes.

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

*Note Proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together

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

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through Stafford Borough Council's Warmer Homes Stafford scheme or an approved ECO installer to ensure that they can benefit from ECO4 Flex or be assessed for eligibility under 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: Raeven Withers

Job Title: Health and Housing Strategy Officer

Telephone: 01785 619 000

Email: healthyhomes@staffordbc.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

Stafford Borough 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 Council's data protection policy, information Commissioner's Office Data Sharing Code, and ESNZ guidance.



Signature:

Name: Craig Jordan

Job Title: Interim Head of Development

Date of Signature: 30 March 2023

For any general enquiries relating to this Sol, please contact
healthyhomes@staffordbc.gov.uk